

# HAVE YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE FOR A CHANGE?

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Now the New Year celebrations are over, are you still sticking to the resolutions you made as you welcomed in 1980?

Like promising you'd change down to the low tar taste of Silk Cut for instance.

## **ANOTHER WELCOME CHANGE.** **A FREE PACK OF SILK CUT**

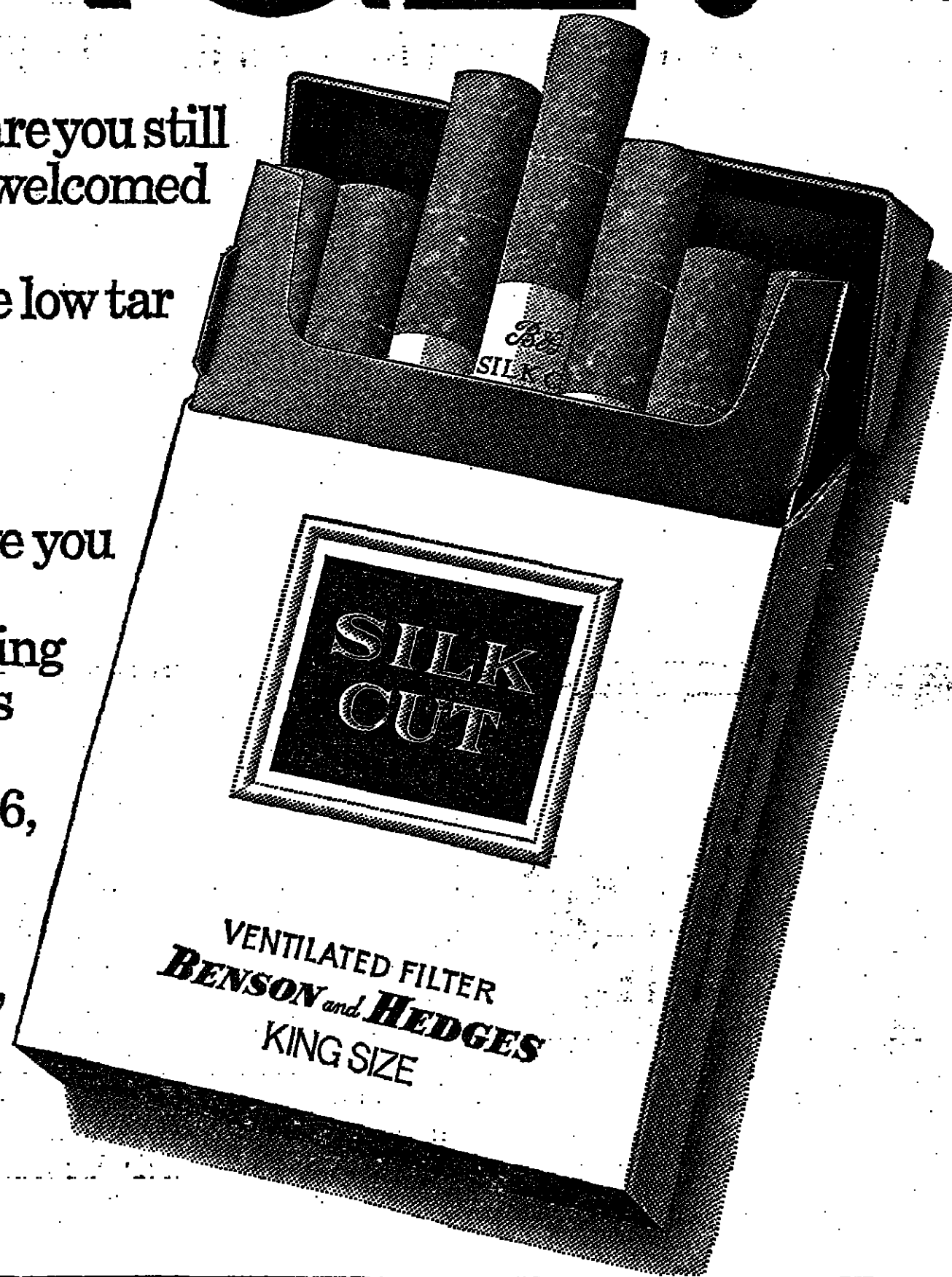
To help you keep your promise, we'll give you 20 Silk Cut King Size free.

Simply collect ten complete Silk Cut King Size pack fronts, print your name and address clearly on the back of one, and send them to Silk Cut Free Pack Offer, Freepost, P.O. Box 6, Kettering, Northants.

In return, we'll send you your free pack.

The offer closes on February 29th, 1980, and is open to smokers aged 18 and over resident in the UK. Limit one free pack per household.

Please allow four weeks for delivery.



SC078

LOW TAR As defined by H.M. Government  
H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:  
CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH



## HOME NEWS

## Call to revive waterways for business and pleasure

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

A renewed appeal to the Government to finance and encourage the restoration and development of Britain's waterways, for commercial as well as recreational use, is made in a report published today by the Inland Waterways Association.

The report points out that, despite a long history of decay and neglect, there are still 3,100 miles of navigable waterways, penetrating almost every county in England, Scotland and Wales. An inter-linked web stretches from Ripon in North Yorkshire to Godalming in Surrey, and from Boston on the shore of the Wash to Llangollen in North Wales.

Some 70,000 registered craft use the waterways, together with several hundred thousand yachts, sailing dinghies, canoes and rowing boats. Rivers and canals are used to supply reservoirs and cooling water for industry, and to drain and irrigate agricultural land. They provide rich and varied habitats for wildlife, and attract more than one million anglers.

An estimated 22,500 jobs are directly dependent upon the waterways, which in 1974 carried more than three billion tonne-kilometres of freight. Yet despite their attraction in terms of fuel conservation and cheaper transport costs, and the example of other countries in Europe, successive governments have withheld support.

This 200-year-old system has suffered from neglect and abuse, with its continued survival still in question, the report states.

The Fraenkel report, published in 1977, showed a maintenance backlog of £60m, of which only £2m has been promised over the next five years.

The IWA report suggests that the Government should accept overall responsibility for improving and maintaining the waterway system; that more use should be made of the larger waterways, for carrying freight; that the public right of navigation should be restored; that research should be undertaken into possible use for water storage, supply, distribution and drainage; and that the entire system should be considered as a linear national park.

"Waterways are neither stagnant ditches of a blighted urban wasteland, nor a playground for the rich," it says. "They should form a very large commercial undertaking, with vast scope for both commerce and pleasure and thus for investment and employment, as well as being a unique aspect of our national heritage."

The state of the professions-1: Triumphant after decade of mixed fortunes  
New militancy of doctors and social workers

By Ian Bradley

The 1970s were a decade of mixed fortunes for the professions. The incomes policies of successive governments severely reduced their standard of living and pay differentials. The legislation and attitudes of the 1974-79 Labour Government significantly diminished their independence and status.

Yet at the end of the decade the professions seem to have emerged triumphant, with two royal commissions upholding their monopolies and privileges, the Conservative Government singling them out for favourable treatment, and the Master of the Rolls ruling that in a professional man an error of judgment does not amount to negligence.

For many people the most noticeable feature about the professions in the 1970s was their resort to tactics hitherto associated with industrial workers. Hospital doctors worked to rule and demanded a 40-hour week, social workers went on strike for nearly six months and teachers left children unattended at lunch time.

That increasing recourse to industrial action was accom-

panied by a steady move towards the trade unionization of the professions.

In the last 10 years the British Medical Association has become a registered trade union and the Hospital Consultants Association and the First Division Association of top civil servants have affiliated themselves to the TUC.

Mr Clive Jenkins's Association of Scientific, Technical and Administrative Staffs has grown to become the fifth largest trade union in Britain through recruiting professional workers, including doctors, scientists and clergymen.

Many people in the professions regret that development and fear that it will lead to a weakening of distinctive professional ethics. At the same time, they argue that it has been necessitated by the labor legislation of the mid-1970s and the worsening economic plight of professionals.

It has also been accelerated by the trend for professionals to become salaried employees of local or central government and large corporations rather than independent practitioners.

Economic hardship has led certain professions to adopt a more entrepreneurial attitude.

Others have become more trade union minded.

The Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects has just agreed to change its rules to remove the ethical ban on architects operating as a limited liability company and to allow them to advertise and to become directors of property companies and building material manufacturers.

A similar trend towards a more commercial and entrepreneurial approach to professional practice among doctors could well come after the Government's recent encouragement of private medicine.

While there is concern in well established professions like medicine and architecture about the possible erosion of traditional ethics through the espousal of trade unionism and commercialism, the newer professions are still keenly seeking to emulate them in their independence and status.

Self-regulation of conduct and admission through an independent association is still taken to be a distinctive hallmark of the professions.

Teachers and social workers have been trying to achieve those two goals throughout the 1970s.

So far they have had no success, although the British Association of Social Workers hopes that the Government may feel inclined to implement recommendations made two years ago that only professionally qualified people should practice social work, and that there should be an independent general council to regulate the profession.

Social work is a good example of a new profession that emerged in the last 50 years of age in the past decade. The Seeborn report of 1963 first called social work a profession. Since then the proportion of professionally qualified social workers has risen from 30 to 64 per cent.

Engineers are also worried about their status. The Finlondon report is recommending the statutory licensing of engineers as a way of improving their general status.

That proposal is fiercely opposed, however, by many of the chartered engineers' institutions, which contend that the registration by the Government of a new being called "the professional engineer" will diminish the status of the profession.

Tomorrow: Pay and status

## Lead sought in saving of transport energy

By Michael Bailly

Transport Correspondent

The Government should give a stronger lead on energy conservation in transport, experts in the industry say.

Since transport uses nearly a quarter of Britain's oil and the average car burns more than a tonne a year, not enough priority is being given to conservation in that field, according to a joint study by the Chartered Institute of Transport and the Institute of Road Transport Engineers.

It calls for a large compulsory reduction in fuel consumption of new cars by 1990 instead of the present voluntary and modest 10 per cent by 1985, agreed by the motor industry; heavier fuel tax and preparation for petrol rationing; further railway electrification; and intensified research into alternative fuels.

For a start, it says, all planning proposals involving transport should include an obligatory statement of the "energy impact" of the proposals.

The biggest potential saving should come from cars since they account for half the consumption. Much could be

achieved simply by educating motorists in the art of economical driving; for example, by controlling speed and acceleration, avoiding spillage and maintaining correct tyre pressures.

Design improvements should make it possible to achieve savings of between 20 and 30 per cent by cars and between 10 and 15 per cent by lorries and buses. There should be more emphasis on smaller cars and diesel cars in particular, which show fuel savings of between 35 and 65 per cent over vehicles using petrol. Tax could be used to encourage a switch.

Since commuter buses and trains used only a third of the energy used by commuter cars, there should be greater efforts to make them more attractive. Trains could save 15 per cent of fuel by better design but the priority should be more electrification to reduce oil dependence. Electric cars, a further quarter of British Rail's network (to a half) would cost £750m and save 120 million gallons of oil a year.

There should be more research on battery and hybrid road vehicles and on alternative fuels such as synthetic (oil derived from coal).

## Trademark forgeries on the increase

By Robin Young

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Forgers do not confine their attention to works of art and banknotes. An article in January's issue of *The Monthly Review*, the journal of the Institute of Trademark Standards Administration, claims that forgers are robbing manufacturers and consumers of millions of pounds by forging sweat-shirts, sports bags, perfumes and tins of salmon.

Mr D. J. Baker, principal trading standards officer with the London borough of Tower Hamlets, says trademark forgeries are on the increase. They include cheap razor blades and sunglasses being passed off as well-known brands.

One of the most widespread forgeries is emblazoning teeshirts with trademarks and company names such as Levi Strauss, Wrangler or Adidas. The forged motifs are screen printed and run off after a few hundred copies, a simple way of telling the genuine from the fake is to stretch the material. The screen printed fakes show material through the mark, while genuine flocked products do not.

Another large-scale forgery concerns Adidas sports bags.

Though the genuine and pirate bags look similar on cursory inspection, the handles on the pirate bags are retained only by two clenched rivets which soon break. Genuine Adidas bags have a creased baseboard and domed studs on the base which the cut-price fakes lack.

Some perfume forgeries are such close imitations of a genuine product, such as Chanel No. 5, that they excite suspicion only because they are being sold from retail outlets that would not normally have the genuine product. Detection can be so difficult that it is beyond the resources of local authority trading standards officers, and has to be handled by the Fraud Squad.

The most bizarre case Mr Baker describes concerned tins labelled as John West pink salmon, sold in markets in London, Kent and Cambridge. When the tins were opened they were found to contain baked beans instead of salmon.

Although it is fairly easy to institute proceedings against retailers, it is very difficult, and often impossible, Mr Baker says, to gather sufficient evidence to prosecute those who initiate the frauds.

## Volvo hatchback offers choice of fuels

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

Volvo, the Swedish car maker, having just celebrated its best year in the British market, today launches an addition to its United Kingdom range, the 345 five-door hatchback. It is available with manual or automatic transmission. Prices start at £4,450.

A derivation of the three-door 343 model, the new car offers a high level of specification, with seat belts front and rear, laminated windscreen, halogen headlights and a heated driving seat. The rear side doors have a 70-degree opening and are fitted with childproof locks.

The 1.4-litre engine which powers the 343 and 345 can be converted to run on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The conversion equipment costs £373, before value-added tax, and operates through the normal carburettor.

A switch on the fascia enables the driver to change from petrol to LPG, and the



The Volvo 345: heated driving seat, childproof locks.

cruising range of the car is almost doubled.

The main advantage of LPG is that it carries a lower duty than petrol and is therefore cheaper, about 90p a gallon, against 115p to 120p. It also gives smoother running and creates less pollution. But except on a very short run there is a fuel consumption penalty of about 15 per cent.

Sales of the 343 in 1979 almost trebled to reach just over 11,000, helping Volvo to record overall sales of 36,500, a 22 per cent increase over 1978 and 65 per cent up on 1977.

The large 244/264 range was the best selling imported executive car after the German-built Ford Granada. Volvo's sales target for 1980 is 41,000 cars.

## Ratepayers accuse water authority of wasting money

From Our Correspondent

Reading

The accounts of the largest water authority in Britain will again be the subject of a public inquiry tomorrow after claims that public money has been wasted.

The Thames Water Authority will be asked by Reading Ratepayers Association why it spent nearly £400 on tickets for the Stewards' Enclosure at Henley Royal Regatta. There are a number of other objections to its 1977-78 accounts.

The association also objects to the authority's expenditure of £3,400 a month on a house newspaper. A 56 per cent subsidy on canteen meals at its offices in Reading and to the spending of £2 a copy on annual reports.

Mr Roland Rench, chairman of the association, said: "Compared with the TWA's budget the sums may not amount to

much, but it is the principle which is important.

"In our view they cannot justify spending £384 to enable 57 people to enjoy themselves, at the public's expense, watching the regatta from the top enclosure, pouring money down the drain."

The objections will be heard by Mr Alex Kappler, the district auditor. The authority will be represented during the two day proceedings by Queen's Counsel.

Mr Kappler will also hear objections from Mr Reginald Bolland, a former employee of the authority. He is asking why the authority's farming activities incurred a loss of £232,000 in 1977-78.

In previous years Mr Bolland has objected to many aspects of the authority's spending, including giving cheap mortgages to staff and sending members and their wives on trips abroad.

## Lower rate of income tax cuts charities' revenue

By Penny Symon

The lowering of the rate of income tax in the last Budget has reduced the income from covenants of voluntary organizations and charities, a fiscal working party set up by the National Council of Social Service reports today.

The report, which makes proposals for tax reforms in favour of charities, has been sent to Sir Geoffrey Howe, OC, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the hope that he will reflect its recommendations in his next Budget.

The overall income of charities could be increased by £25m a year, it says, by changing the law relating to covenants.

Charities can recover tax at the rate of 30 per cent only on payments made under a deed of covenant, but account should be taken, the report says, of the fact that many covenants

pay income tax at a higher rate.

It proposes that an average rate of 45 per cent should be recognized.

"If charities were permitted to recover income tax at this rate instead of 30 per cent then the annual income of charities overall would be increased by £25m, an increase of one eighth on their present total income of £220,000m. The voluntary Trust would receive an additional £540,000, Dr Barnardo's £35,000 and the Church of England £6m.

The recent increase in value-added tax has increased the cost of running a voluntary organization, but local authorities, under section 16 of the 1972 Finance Act, are outside the scope of VAT, the report says. It is proposed that charities should be treated in the same way.

## Shoplifters fined £1,110

The post-Christmas sales in the West End of London brought an increase in shoplifting and on Saturday alone, 25 people, 15 of them from overseas, were charged.

On New Year's Eve Mr St John Harnsworth, the Marlborough Street magistrate, imposed fines and costs totalling £1,110 on 17 out of 27 defendants who pleaded guilty.

They included Simon Cohen, aged 21, an Oxford undergraduate, from Golders Green, London, who was conditionally discharged and ordered to pay £30 costs for stealing a cassette from the HMV shop in Oxford Street.

The heaviest fine, £300 with £30 costs, was imposed in the case of a Greek tourist who took her grandson, aged 14, shoplifting. Mr Harnsworth gave the boy an absolute discharge.

Mrs Despina Tsiolridou, aged 53, who was staying at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, and the boy, admitted stealing underwear valued at £9.23 from Marks and Spencer. He was said to have slipped the items into the woman's bag during the instructions while she held it open.

Some of the 27 defendants were remanded to later dates.

## Coal examined as gas and oil substitute

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

The effects of greatly expanding the production of coal for the manufacture of substitute liquid fuels and for the raw materials of the organic chemicals and plastics industry have been examined at a special meeting of the Council for Environmental Science and Engineering.

The meeting discussed the conversion of coal from power stations into synthetic gas and oil products.

Pressure that is mounting for the development of liquid fuel

plants and the difficulties they create in generating waste were explained by Dr J. Gibson, member for science, National Coal Board, and Mr D. W. Gill, head of the pollution section, Coal Research Establishment.

There are two broad categories for coal liquefaction. The well established German Fischer-Tropsch method starts with a gasification stage involving a purification procedure to remove tars, sulphur, pounds, carbon dioxide, phenols and ammonia.

The second process, degradation-hydrogenation, includes a

wide range of methods with several things in common, such as the creation of quantities of carbonaceous residues and ash. The National Coal Board is exploring two liquefaction processes.

The capital cost for production of 10,000 tonnes a day of synthetic products is between £25 and £125 for each ton of coal used a year; or marginally less than the cost of a large coal-fired power station at £120 for each ton of coal used a year, and less than the £170 to £200 for a nuclear power station producing an equivalent amount of energy a year.

Science report  
Physiology: Smoking and emphysema

By the staff of Nature

Smokers are well known to be particularly prone to emphysema and similar lung diseases, and research is beginning to reveal the scientific basis of their vulnerability. Studies reported from the United States show that smoking impairs the chemical balance between essential destructive and protective components of the fluid lining the respiratory tract.

Emphysema, which often accompanies advanced bronchitis, is characterized by the destruction of the compartments, or alveoli, of the air sacs in the lungs, with the loss of the vital surfaces on which carbon dioxide is exchanged for oxygen. Enzymes are thought to be responsible for the destruction by attacking the fibrous protein material which gives the alveoli their shape and elasticity. Such enzymes, known as proteases, are a necessary part of metabolism, but usually, the lungs are rendered harmless by the action of antiproteases.

A clue that emphysema might be

associated with an unbalanced metabolism was suggested by the discovery that patients with a hereditary deficiency of antitrypsin, which happens to be the predominant antiprotease in the lungs, are particularly prone to an early age to a severe form of emphysema. Another clue was the discovery that the extracts of cigarette smoke could inactivate antitrypsin when the two were mixed together in a test tube.

Now Doctors J. E. Gadek, G. A. Fells and R. G. Crystal, of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, have followed up those clues by testing the activity of antitrypsin in fluid washed from the lungs of a group of smokers and non-smokers. They report in *Science* that the antitrypsin from the smokers' lungs was inactivated by a group of enzymes that is less than one percent of that found in the lungs of non-smokers.

Antitrypsin from healthy smokers was only 62 per cent as

effective as that from healthy non-smokers. There was a significant difference between smokers and non-smokers who had a lung disease characterized by inflammation and excessive fibrous tissue; their antitrypsin was also generally less effective than that of the healthy subjects.

A similar deficiency of antitrypsin in the lungs of rats after exposure to cigarette smoke is reported in the same issue of *Science* by Dr A. Janoff and colleagues from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and from Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island.

Together, the two reports strongly suggest that cigarette smoking causes a deficiency of antitrypsin. Whatever the detailed chemical mechanism may turn out to be, the effect seems to be a lack of antitrypsin in the lungs that is likely to lead to emphysema.

## WEST EUROPE

## Signor Pertini thinks terrorism in Italy is externally organized

From Peter Nichols

Rome, Jan 1

President Pertini told Italians in his New Year message that he believed the terrorism afflicting Italy is being organized outside the country.

He made it clear that this was a personal opinion and the passage was deleted from the official text.

Although what the President had to say was clearly well pondered, he succeeded in giving the impression of a degree of spontaneity. He put the question of why Italy had been chosen as a theatre of violence and made it clear that he believed in the existence of "a centre run by criminals not lacking in diabolical intelligence."

Italy was a bridge that united Europe with Africa and the Middle East. If the bridge was blown up by the destabilization of Italian democracy it would damage not only Italy but the whole of Europe and peace in the world.

He then offered the opinion that the organizational centre was abroad, adding: "Is it perhaps pure coincidence that until now no one weapon of Italian manufacture has been found in terrorist lairs, but all are of foreign make? Who in the shadows is conspiring against our democracy?"

He did not name any country. It is widely known, however, that the most notorious weapon so far found by the police, the Skorpion machine pistol used to murder Aldo Moro, the former Christian Democrat Prime Minister, was of Czech manufacture.

The President's remark that the Skorpion machine pistol used in terrorist hands may be suggestive, but it is frequently pointed out here, the suppliers of these weapons might not be the countries that manufacture them.

The President sees Italian terrorism as part of an external conspiracy that has broad strategic aims. He made no secret of the effect it is having on the



Signor Pertini: "Italy at war."

country: "We are at war," he said.

The forces of law and order had to be provided with more modern equipment, their numbers should be reinforced and they should be paid on an appropriate scale.

The President confessed that he no longer felt like going to pay homage to the victims of terrorism. "What use are words of sympathy, telegrams, wreaths? They do not give life back to the dead, nor placate the pain of the living."

He gave Italians credit for the way in which they have faced up to terrorism. "We Italians are giving foreigners a great example. We have not shown and are not showing any weakening towards the terrorists."

The republic, he went on, had not been offered on a silver plate. "It was a contest, a hard and long struggle, first against Fascism and then against the Nazi fascist occupation."

The President, who is 83 and was a hero of the resistance against Fascism, made a special appeal to young people to see that their lives were "always illuminated by the light of a noble idea."

## Portuguese Cabinet of technicians

From Our Correspondent

Lisbon, Jan 1

Dr Francisco Sá Carneiro, the new Portuguese Prime Minister, today announced the list of his new Cabinet, composed predominantly of lawyers and technicians.

With the exception of one independent, all the ministers are from the right-centre Democratic Alliance, which won the parliamentary elections last month. Nine are from Dr Carneiro's own Social Democratic Party and five from the conservative Centre Democrats led by Dr Diogo Freitas do

Amaral. This is the Cabinet list: Prime Minister: Dr Carneiro; Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister: Dr Diogo Freitas do Amaral.

Without Portfolio: Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão; Defence: Senhor Adelino Amaro Da Costa.

Home: Senhor Eurico de Melo; Justice: Senhor Mario Raposo; Labour: Senhor Eusebio Marques Carvalho.

Agriculture: Senhor José Cardoso e Cunha; Social Affairs: Senhor Joao Salento Leitao; Finance: Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva.

Commerce and Tourism: Senhor Basilio Horta; Public Works: Senhor Joao

Barreto; Education: Senhor Vitor Pereira Crespo; Transport: Senhor José Viana Baptista.

## Eiffel protest fails

Paris, Jan 1—Two young Frenchmen, dangling from the second storey of the Eiffel tower to protest against national service, gave up yesterday after 23 hours because of the cold. They meant to hold out until nine men jailed for refusing military service, were released.

The quantity of goods and services produced over the period increased by 15 per cent. Inequalities were reduced and old age pensions rose by 15 per cent.

The spending power of the lowest paid increased by 30 per cent while that of industrial workers went up by 22 per cent.

He said he was proud, as

## President Giscard braces the French

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Jan 1

In an unusually sombre tone, President Giscard d'Estaing, last night admitted during a television broadcast, that there was a risk of war. France, he said, was also threatened by an economic crisis due to the latest increase in oil prices.

But it was better armed to withstand it than in 1973, being "stronger and more realistic." The President emphasized that France was living through a time when the world balance rests on the capacity of self control of a handful of leaders. I hope their wisdom will prevail."

His country was working for peace through its realistic and firm diplomacy, which had warded off the threat of destabilization on the African continent. Through initiatives like the North-South dialogue, it also sought to remove the causes of inequalities and resentment in the world.

The French oil bill in 1980 would be considerably heavier than in 1973-74. "There is no point in concealing or denying it," he added. But of all industrial countries, France had the most comprehensive energy policy, with a nuclear power programme making it possible to produce 45 million tons of oil equivalent a year by 1985.

The moribund steel industry had not a grip on itself. With advanced technology, France was in the fore with the Airbus, the European rocket Ariane and the unprecedented development of a telecommunications and computer system.

Moreover, in the past five years, Frenchmen had worked well. The quantity of goods and services produced over the period increased by 15 per cent. Inequalities were reduced and old age pensions rose by 15 per cent.

The spending power of the lowest paid increased by 30 per cent while that of industrial workers went up by 22 per cent.

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## Pope warns world of nuclear war disaster

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Jan 1

The Pope today made his contribution to the "Apocalypse Now" style of thinking with his estimate that only 200 of the estimated 50,000 nuclear bombs in existence need be used to destroy most of the big cities in the world.

During his homily at the Mass for New Year's Day, he said he had recently received a scientific evaluation of the immediate consequences of a nuclear war. The principal findings were that between 50 and 200 million people would die from immediate or indirect effects of nuclear explosions; resources of food would be drastically reduced because of the radioactive residue in agricultural land; there would be dangerous genetic changes in human beings, flora and fauna; and changes in the ozone belt of the atmosphere would leave men exposed to unknown factors prejudicial to life. Finally, in a city devastated by a nuclear explosion the destruction of all urban services and the terror provoked by the disaster would impede all help to the inhabitants, creating a terrible nightmare.

It was urgent, the scientists had told him, that people should not close their eyes to what an atomic war could represent for humanity.

The Pope added that such reflections brought the question: Can we continue along this road? The reply, he felt, was clear. He saw the essential key to peace as the difficult problem of rebuilding reciprocal confidence.

After the Mass the Pope addressed a crowd in St Peter's Square and was more specific about his fears implicit in his homily of a possible outbreak of war. He spoke of increasing tension during the last few weeks and, in particular, the past few days, particularly in Asia. He was presumably referring to the Afghanistan situation among others.

The Pope added that such reflections brought the question: Can we continue along this road? The reply, he felt, was clear. He saw the essential key to peace as the difficult problem of rebuilding reciprocal confidence



OVERSEAS

# US help for Afghan rebels threatened Russia, Pravda says

From Michael Blayon  
Moscow, Jan 1

As up to 40,000 Soviet combat troops were reported to be fanning out throughout Afghanistan, Mr. Babrak Karmal, the Afghan leader brought to power in Thursday's coup, told President Brezhnev that with continued Soviet help Afghanistan would overcome all difficulties.

The Russians have announced only that a limited Soviet military contingent "was sent to Afghanistan to help the Afghan people to repel armed interference from outside. The forces would be withdrawn when they were no longer needed, the Soviet press has said.

In a telegram to Mr. Brezhnev, published today by Tass news agency, President Karmal expressed his "profound and heartfelt gratitude" for the Soviet leadership for their congratulations "in connection with my election to the party and government posts."

Mr. Karmal said Afghanistan would rely on its people to uphold the gains of the April revolution, that last year brought Marxism to power—as well as Afghan sovereignty and national pride.

The Russians have made no public reply to American accusations that Mr. Brezhnev did not tell President Carter the truth about the Soviet role in the coup.

But over the New Year holiday the Soviet leadership accused the United States of backing the Muslim rebels and said that "imperialist interference" had jeopardized the existence of the Afghan republic, and directly threatened the Soviet Union itself.

An authoritative article in Pravda, reflecting the Kremlin's views, said the United States, China and Egypt had joined forces with "counter-revolutionaries in Afghanistan, who were trying to regain their lost positions. Lavishly supplied with weapons, equipment and money, the rebels had been preparing to make a triumphant entry into Kabul."

Pravda said the Americans had set up centres, disguised as refugee camps, in Pakistan, where American agents and Chinese instructors had trained the counter-revolutionaries.

American emissaries had direct encounters with the uprising in March, 1979, in which many Soviet advisers were tortured and killed.

Pravda linked American involvement to the fall of the

Shah in Iran, and said that had weakened the "imperialist" that the United States had for years been building up along the southern borders of the Soviet Union.

Pravda explained why Moscow did not provide easier military help the Russians maintain the Afghan have repeatedly been requesting.

"The Soviet Union believed that imperialist forces, convinced of the irreversibility of the changes that have taken place in Afghanistan, would go beyond a certain limit, would show consideration for realities."

But, the paper added, "our country made no secret that it will not allow Afghanistan to be turned into a bridgehead for the preparation of imperialist aggression against the Soviet Union."

In a passage reminiscent of the accusations Stalin levelled at his enemies in the 1930s, Pravda said: "Reaction found a helper for the implementation of its anti-popular designs among the very leadership of democratic Afghanistan."

President Amin, according to the paper, overthrew the lawless President, Nur Muhammad Taraki, by deception and intrigue. By his criminal actions, gross violation of law and order, by cruelty and abuse of power Amin had become a factor teamed up with the enemies of the April revolution."

Pravda did not explain why the Russians increased military aid to Afghanistan during Amin's 15-week presidency. Last week the Soviet press quoted him praising Moscow for its support.

The paper went on: "In conditions when interference from outside and terror unleashed by Amin within the country created a real threat to the democratic system, there were patriotic forces in Afghanistan which rose not only against foreign aggression but also against the usurper."

"In the obtaining circumstances, the Afghan Government again made an insistent request that the Soviet Union should give immediate aid and support in the struggle against external aggression."

Pravda did not say that President Amin was the head of the Government at the time it defended the Soviet action on the basis of the treaty of friendship with Afghanistan, and on the United Nations Charter that gives countries the right to collective and individual self-defence against aggression.

Leading article, page 9

## Pakistan interested in American military aid

From Hasan Akhtar  
Islamabad, Jan 1

Pakistan is understood to be in touch with the United States Administration on the reported American willingness to extend military assistance to Islamabad since the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Officials here are showing obvious signs of interest in the United States offer. But at the same time Islamabad seems keen to obtain firm assurances from Washington underlining not only Pakistan's immediate security needs but also its future defence requirements. The reported figure of \$100m worth of arms aid to Pakistan is considered decidedly insufficient.

It is pointed out that, in the past, Pakistan has suffered from United States failure to carry out its obligations under defence agreements, thanks either to decisions of the Administration or to Acts of Congress. At present, Pakistan's foreign policy options are further restricted because of bad Iran-American relations and Pakistan's membership of the non-aligned movement.

Apparently Pakistan does not wish to upset its relations with Iran and the non-aligned club.

Informed political sources here consider that Russia's military intervention is a desperate attempt to salvage its political gains of the past 15 years in Afghanistan.

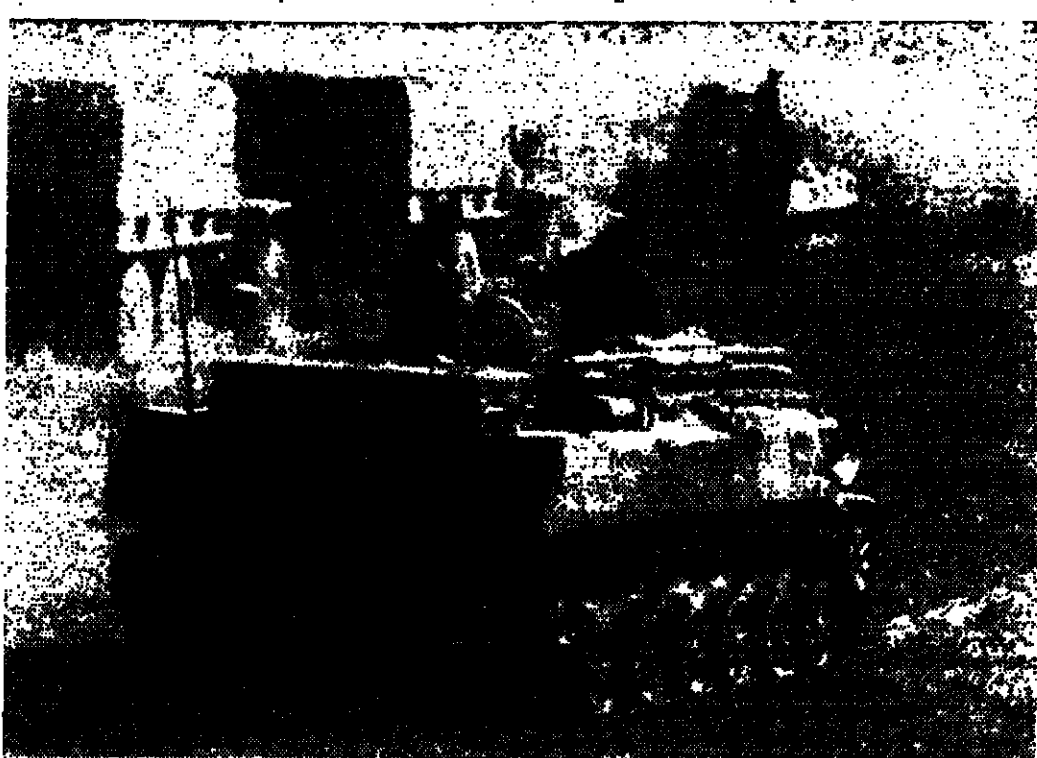
The Pakistan Times, which is considered to be a Government mouthpiece, today advised Pakistan to accept the offer of United States arms assistance. The newspaper said: "Since this is the moment of truth, things have all of a sudden become vividly clear and a certain course of action has been indicated."

The newspaper also urged India not to protest against American arms supplies to Pakistan, because in the long run, secure Pakistan would be in the interests of India.

The most widely published Urdu-language newspaper, Jung, however strongly opposed accepting American military aid, asserting that the Soviet Union would not attack Pakistan.

Richa Singh, writing from Delhi: "The Russians have been left in no doubt that their intervention in Afghanistan has meant a serious setback to their relations with India."

The main contents in the general election campaign now ending, Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Charan Singh, the Prime Minister, have both voiced their disapproval, and so has the ruling Janata party.



A Russian armoured troop carrier moves into position at Kabul airport.

## Labour national committee likely to condemn invasion

By Michael Hatfield  
Political Reporter

Labour Party condemnation of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan is expected to be announced next week at a meeting of the national executive's international committee.

Mr. Eric Heffer, (Liverpool West) a prominent member of the left-wing dominated committee, has tabled a motion which condemns "the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and urges the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops forthwith in the interests of world peace."

He has also written to the Soviet Ambassador in London stating that the Russian invasion is a violation of the principle of self-determination as outlined by Lenin and will assist those who do not want détente. Mr. Heffer points out that the Italian Communist Party has

already protested at the Soviet actions.

The international committee will almost certainly approve his motion, which comes at a time when a number of backbenchers are calling for a halt to British participation in this year's Moscow Olympic Games.

Requests for such withdrawal came from the Conservative MP, Mr. Neville Trotter (Tyne-mouth) and Mr. James Well-beloved, Labour MP for Bexley, Erith and Crayford.

Three Labour MPs bound for Afghanistan have turned back because no flights are allowed into the country. The MPs, Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirling-shire), Mr. Albert Roberts (Northampton and West Riding) and Mr. Russell Kerr (Hounslow) were invited to Afghanistan by the Government of the late President Amin.

## China denounces Russia's 'sinister purpose'

Peking, Jan 1.—The presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan is an "event of utmost gravity", states the Peking People's Daily in a front-page commentary today.

The paper gave warning that there would be no tranquillity in the arc from South Asia to the Horn of Africa with 45,000 Soviet soldiers in strategic Afghanistan.

"The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is not only aimed at having an iron grip of that landlocked nation but also serves a more aggressive and sinister purpose," the People's Daily declared.

Afghanistan offered the Russians a stepping-stone for their southward thrust into Pakistan and the whole sub-continent—Agence France-Presse.

## Muslim nations united in condemnation

By Our Foreign Staff

Several Islamic organizations and countries have been quick to condemn the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan.

Mr. Habib Chetty, Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in Tunis yesterday urged member nations to do what they could to "put an end to the foreign presence in a brother country."

The Secretariat of the Islamic World League in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, condemned the inter-

vention as an "odious crime" and a "flagrant violation of international norms and human rights". It called on the Afghan people to resist and protect its Islamic doctrine.

The Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Riyadh called for "firm action supported militarily, financially and morally" by the Muslim countries.

Another newspaper, Al Jazeera, called a meeting of the Foreign, Defence and Economy Ministers of Islamic nations to decide on "appropriate" measures against communist aggression.

About 1,000 students demonstrated in Dacca, Bangladesh, demanding immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. In Indonesia, a spokesman for the assembly's commission on foreign affairs likened the Soviet intervention to the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea.

In Sudan, the People's Assembly urged support for the Afghan Muslim forces confronted with a formidable enemy. The resolution added: "The will of the people is never defeated and the wheel of history does not turn back."

## Dr Waldheim to meet minister in Tehran

Tehran, Jan 1.—Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, arrived today for talks on the United States-Iran crisis with no guarantee that he would meet Ayatollah Khomeini, who holds the key to the fate of the American hostages here.

Dr Waldheim told reporters on arrival that his meetings with Government leaders would cover all aspects of the crisis rooted in the takeover of the United States embassy in Tehran two months ago by student followers of the ayatollah.

"My visit will provide an opportunity to have an exchange of views. I hope to find means and ways to solve the crisis," he said. "There are several aspects to the crisis between the United States and Iran, the personnel in the American embassy and the aspect of the grievances of the Iranian people in relation to the previous regime."

Dr Waldheim was met at Mehrabad international airport by Mr. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the Foreign Minister, and was whisked away under tight security to a Tehran hotel.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman announced later that Dr Waldheim would have a first round of talks with Mr. Qotbzadeh tomorrow morning.

There has been no official announcement on whether Ayatollah Khomeini intends to receive Dr Waldheim, but a member of his household quoted

him this week as saying he did not intend such a meeting.

The students at the embassy have also said they will not meet Dr Waldheim or allow him to see the hostages unless specifically ordered to do so by the Ayatollah.

Dr Waldheim said his visit would last several days. The United Nations Security Council yesterday gave Iran until January 7 to release the hostages otherwise it would meet again to vote on economic sanctions.

Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council has made it clear that it regards Dr Waldheim's visit as a fact-finding mission and not as an occasion for mediation over the hostages.

The Interior Ministry today announced the results of last month's referendum in which Iranians overwhelmingly approved the country's strict Islamic constitution by 15,680,325 votes to 78,516.

Support for attack: President Sadat of Egypt said in a television interview broadcast in New York last night that he would support an American military strike to free the hostages in Tehran.

He was talking to a correspondent in Cairo and added that he believed other Arab leaders opposed the rule in Iran of Ayatollah Khomeini but were afraid to say so. "They should condemn him openly. The man is insane,"—Reuter.

## Sanctions facing Iran if hostages not released

From Michael Leapman  
New York, Jan 1

The Security Council agreed yesterday to adopt "effective measures" against Iran if the 50 hostages at the United States embassy in Tehran have not been released by next Monday.

The resolution, passed by 11 votes to none with four abstentions, specifies action under Article 41 of the Charter which could include "complete or partial interruption of economic relations."

Those who abstained were the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Kuwait and Bangladesh. At least two others, Zambia and China, agreed with reservations and there is more difficult bargaining to come on the extent of sanctions.

Dr Waldheim's mission to Tehran failing.

The Americans are expected to seek a ban on all exports to Iran except of food and medicine. The proposed sanctions would not include barring

purchases of Iranian oil.

The fact that the Soviet Union did not veto the American inspired resolution does not rule out a veto of the actual measures when they are discussed next Monday. But Mr. Donald McHenry, the American representative to the United Nations, linking the Iran crisis with the Soviet action in Afghanistan, said yesterday: "I would think that any country which is engaged in the rape of another country would be ill-advised to engage in a veto."

Mr. McHenry, in a television interview last night, indicated that the Administration, as much as it deplores the Soviet action in Afghanistan, sees it as a glimmer of hope for easing the hostage crisis.

He said that the Iranians might be persuaded by it that the Russians were more menacing than the Americans with whom they might thus seek to settle their differences.

Meanwhile, Time Magazine has made itself unpopular here by naming Ayatollah Khomeini its man of the year.

## 22 killed by blaze at New Year party

Chapais, Quebec, Jan 1.—At least 22 people were killed in a fire which broke out at a New Year's celebration early today. Police said that more people were still missing, presumed dead.

Officials first reported only six people had died in the blaze at the Chapais town hall, a French-Canadian copper mining town, but more bodies were found when the fire was put out.

"The firemen opened a door at the back of the building and there they were," a police constable said.

At least 50 people were injured and nine especially severe burn cases were flown to hospitals in Quebec City.

Police said panic struck the party of about 300 people. Flames broke out in decorations along the club's wall at about 1.30 am. Fire fighters struggled for four hours to bring the flames under control.

The cause of the blaze was not immediately known. Some reports blamed faulty decorations and others talked of a party-goer "fooling around with a cigarette lighter."—Reuter.

## Thailand's farmers consult mediums in attempt to improve their productivity

From Neil Kelly  
Bangkok, Jan 1

Thailand's "Year of the Farmer" failed to benefit the rural people. Their incomes did not rise during 1979, but living costs increased at least 13 per cent.

Those were the main conclusions of a high-level seminar which Government and private-sector economists attended in Bangkok.

Organized by the Agricultural Economics Society of Thailand and Kasetsart University, the seminar indicated that none of the Government's development plans designed to help the farmer would solve any of his fundamental problems, and it urged more private participation, especially by commercial banks, in investment programmes.

Thailand's biggest-selling newspaper, Thai Rath, reported recently that many rural people, bewildered by their financial plight, were turning for help to supernatural practices, consulting mediums and offering tributes at shrines and to statues.

Agricultural development is generally recognized as a prerequisite for Thailand's prosperity and political stability, but the World Bank recently gave a warning that no expansion of cash-crop cultivation could be expected in the next 15 years because available land has been limited by urban and industrial growth and soil erosion.

Agricultural production will increase by only 1 per cent in 1980, according to Government forecasts, while rice—which accounts for 40 per cent of total production—will decline by 10 per cent.

Drought and higher fuel prices, which are holding back irrigation, mechanization and the use of fertilizers, are the main causes of the expected fall in rice production. Thailand, whose rice farmers use an average basis about one-fifth the amount of fertilizers employed by farmers in industrialized countries, has the lowest yield per unit area of any major rice exporter.

Thailand and all Asian agriculture is vulnerable to oil price rises, and for that reason alone it seems the rural population's hardships will increase with the price of oil.

At least 700,000 rural families are landless and form a huge reserve of unemployed. Minimum wages are often ignored, as in some northern and north-eastern provinces any wage will find workers.

Almost two-thirds of pre-school children suffer from malnutrition, according to Government statistics, and the rate well above average in rural areas.

Some 20,000 separate agricultural development projects monitored by computer from the Prime Minister's office in Bangkok have been initiated or continued during the "Year of the Farmer". Critics of the Government concede there has been no neglect of farmers' problems, but they claim that over-centralization has robbed many projects of any chance of success.

Similar bureaucratic inefficiency and farmers' ignorance have frustrated a new scheme to guarantee producers a fixed price for rice. The scheme has also been sabotaged by some Government departments, which have succeeded in buying rice for export below the guaranteed price.

## Kampuchean put strain on Thai water resources

From Our Correspondent  
Bangkok, Jan 1

A shortage of water is an important reason for the reduction in the number of Kampuchean refugees entering Thailand, a senior Thai official said today.

All the water for 82,000 refugees at the Khao I Dang camp, near the border, must be brought 30 miles by road, according to Air Marshal Siddhi Savattha, Secretary-General of the National Security Council.

A United Nations official said the camp needed 300,000 gallons a day which cost more than \$4,000 (about £1,800). Water from the same source is also being supplied in limited quantities to Kampuchean who come to the border to collect it.

Thai officials in areas bordering Kampuchea say such demands are threatening supplies to the border town of Aranyaprathet and other centres of population.

Air Marshal Siddhi said Thailand would continue its open door policy for Kampuchean but entries had been reduced.

The refugees might never be allowed back into Kampuchea, he said, and the burden of looking after them would remain on Thailand.

The sick were being freely admitted but nobody else was being encouraged to enter Thailand.

Air Marshal Siddhi hinted that that policy would continue while the United Nations considered Thailand's suggestion that a UN force should supervise a demilitarized zone where half a million Kampuchean now live.

## Two 'permissive' papers banned in Singapore

From Our Correspondent  
Kuala Lumpur, Jan 1

The Singapore Government has cancelled the licences of two Chinese-language newspapers which allegedly carried "news of a purulent and permissive nature" despite official warnings.

The two newspapers—the Shin Min and the Min Pao—have both appealed against the decision, which is to come into effect today. Newspapers in Singapore and Malaysia have to renew their printing licences annually and the governments have used this to keep the press in line.

Government officials said the two newspapers had been warned repeatedly over the past 12 months to tone down articles deemed to be "yellow culture"—the local description

for items which offend local sensitivities.

The two newspapers have concentrated on reports of this type and have a combined circulation of about 120,000 daily. Among the offending items mentioned by Government officials were a photograph of a male strip-tease performer before a group of women and a report of a Buddhist abbot cohabiting with a nun in his monastery.

This is the first closure of a major newspaper in Singapore since the Singapore Herald was closed down eight years ago in a confrontation with the Government.

The Malaysian Government cancelled the licences of a few political periodicals in recent years, when they became strongly critical of Government policies.

## Botha call to oppose Africa's Marxist perils

From Eric Marsden  
Johnannesburg, Jan 1

South African eyes are turned across the northern border as the decade opens. Though Mr. P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, did not specifically mention Southern Rhodesia in his New Year message, the need to prevent a "Marxist" takeover there was implicit in his call for regional cooperation by African nations.

Mr. Botha said that Soviet expansionism threatened the peoples of Southern Africa with enslavement and chaos. He said it would be a "total blunder" if African states refused to co-operate in forming the "constellation of states" of Southern Africa (which he launched last November).

South Africans must be prepared to work for regional peace and prosperity, "but we are also prepared to fight for that peace and to protect it."

Mr. Botha's call sounded like a more circumspect resumption of his earlier warning that South Africa will not tolerate chaos on its northern border and might have to seek Parliamentary sanction for action to prevent it.

This has been seized on by the Patriotic Front leaders as a threat of military intervention in Southern Rhodesia if they come to power.

Referring to the constellation plan, Mr. Botha said: "I see this venture as the most effective counter to perils of Russian and Cuban Marxist intervention in Africa."

He castigated Western nations which, though dependent on South Africa's mineral resources and aware of its strategic importance, were not prepared to stand up and be counted in its defence.

He excerpts Britain's Prime Minister who had lately "shown a measure of appreciation of these facts". In doing so, he said, Mrs. Thatcher was expressing the opinion of many responsible people in the world.

Mr. Botha indicated that he would pursue his policy of reforms aimed at giving South Africa's community of peoples "real freedom and mutual responsibility". He pointed to the nation's economic recovery, the soaring gold price and the success of free enterprise as the foundations for its progress.

NEW PHONE CHARGES.

Here are the main changes in the New Year:

From Jan 1st, the quarterly rental for a phone in the home will be £9.50 instead of £8.25. Business phones will be £11.25 instead of £9.75.

On orders placed from Jan 2nd, the maximum standard charge for installing a phone will be £55, not £45.

And from Jan 7th, the basic call unit will cost 3.5p, up from 3p. The minimum charge for a call from a coin box will go up from 2p to 5p, but the time this buys will be increased on most calls.

Some international calls will cost more, some remain unchanged, others will be reduced.

These, with other charges, will add something like £3 to the typical domestic bill.

Apart from the coin box call charges all prices exclude VAT which is added separately to your bill.

This is the first increase on these prices since Oct. 1975 and represents a rise of about 14%.

Over the same four years, gas has gone up by 55%, beer up 60%, petrol by 80% and rail fares by 110%.

You can get a leaflet with more details about the new call charges by ringing the operator and asking for Freefone 888.

Post Office Telecommunications



## OVERSEAS

# Arabs take defiant stand against Israeli proposal to seize Jerusalem electricity company

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, Jan 1

A bitter legal battle is likely over a controversial attempt by the Israeli Government to take control of the Arab-owned company which supplies electricity to much of the occupied West Bank of the Jordan.

Since the Israeli move was first announced yesterday it has rapidly emerged as a serious new source of friction between Arabs and Jews. One indirect effect is likely to be a further stiffening of local Palestinian opposition to the autonomy plan now being discussed by Egypt and Israel.

Under the terms of the Israeli proposal, Jerusalem District Electricity Company will lose its concession to supply electricity from the beginning of next year. The concession was originally awarded to the Arab company under the Turks and continued both under the British mandate and Jordanian rule.

Historically the concession is related to a 1930 miles from the dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the centre of the world. It takes in some 15,000 Jewish homes and a number of Jewish settlements, as well as many Arab towns and villages.

Mr. Amrur Nuseibeh, the company chairman and a former Jordanian Defence Minister, told me that plans were already under way to contest the proposed takeover in either the Israeli High Court or the International Court at The Hague.

"This is our company and

we are not going to sell it," he said. "The company is fulfilling its obligations and has now got over its difficulties. As far as we are concerned the Israeli move is totally illegal, just like their efforts to seize our land in the occupied territories."

Mr. Nuseibeh took charge of the company four months ago. He contests a claim by the Israeli Energy Ministry that the company was unable to supply electricity to 80 of the 130 Arab villages that he within the concession area and maintaining that it is now financially sound.

"I have had representatives of the villages in my office this morning and they were adamant that they will never accept electricity supplied by the Israelis," he stated. "They said that they would prefer to live without it."

According to an official spokesman for the Israeli Energy Ministry, the Government decision was based "solely on technological and economic grounds". He claimed that the company's Arab workers and all its shareholders would receive full compensation as required by Israeli law.

Earlier this week Mr. Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli Energy Minister, attempted personally to hand over a formal letter outlining the reasons for the proposed takeover but Mr. Nuseibeh refused to accept it and it had to be delivered to his Jerusalem office by messenger.

The letter made a number of detailed points, including a claim that the Arab company

was unable to provide the necessary electricity supply and that it was not operating in an "orderly fashion".

It also noted that the company distributed less than 2 per cent of the electricity produced in Israel as a whole and generated only one third of its own supply, the rest being purchased from the Israel Electric Corporation.

Political observers have described the Israeli move as an attempt to bring the occupied territories under the Government's hard line approach to the occupied territories. One result would be to increase Israeli control over the infrastructure of the land seized from Jordan during the 1967 war.

With approximately 420 Arab workers and shareholders, which include six of the Arab municipalities on the West Bank, the electricity company is the largest single employer in East Jerusalem.

In recent years, it has frequently been the cause of angry demonstrations by Jewish residents from outlying suburbs who claimed that electricity bill payments were politically motivated.

The Israeli move comes only weeks after widespread unrest among the 700,000 Arab inhabitants of the West Bank which was stirred up by attempts to deport Mr. Bassam Shakra, the Arab Mayor of Nablus. Commenting on the proposed takeover today, Mr. Fahd Kawasma, the Mayor of Hebron, said: "The company is the property of the Palestinian people and is not up for sale."

## China takes a great legal leap forward

From David Bonavia  
Hongkong, Jan 1

Six new legal codes went into effect in China today, ending three decades of near-anarchy in the judicial system, and laying down the rights of people accused of crimes.

Accused people are no longer to be considered guilty by virtue of the fact that they are being prosecuted, a big advance in the Chinese legal system, which is based on Soviet and, ultimately, Napoleonic Law.

The new laws cover court procedures, rules of evidence, right of defence, arrest and detention, elections to office, and environmental protection; a law governing foreign investment went into effect last year ahead of the other new codes.

They represent the most substantial body of codified law to take effect in China since the communist victory in 1949.

The new legal codes were drafted under the supervision of the rehabilitated Mr. Peng Zhen, the former Mayor of Peking, who fell from office 13 years ago marked the start of the Cultural Revolution when nearly all laws and regulations were discarded in favour of drumhead trials, and mob rule manipulated by political activists.

The most striking feature of the move to systematize the law is the picture which is being painted of the legal vacuum that has existed since the mid-1960s. Laws and regulations have been decreed by national and local power-holders to suit their own political convenience.

Political dissidents have been detained, imprisoned and shot without so much as a court hearing. The most famous of them, Zhang Xiaohu, has been declared a revolutionary traitor.

Mr. Zhang, a mother of two, is said to have been shot in 1975 in the north eastern city of Shenyang, because she had refused to go along with the leftist political current there. Horrifying rumours have persisted that her body was deliberately punctured without anaesthetic on the day before the execution, so that she could not cry political slogans.

One of the big grievances of the reform party members of the government officials and intellectuals rehabilitated in the past three years is that the leftists who jailed them, or sent them to do hard manual labour in the rural areas, have still not been punished.

Quick courses in law and judicial and criminal procedure have been mounted all over China to improve the standard of legal knowledge and emphasize the new idea that the courts and police organs should act as checks and balances on themselves while remaining independent of the Communist Party and the Government.

To expect that this will really happen is perhaps over-optimistic, but at least there is now recognition of the principle of an independent judiciary. The new laws will be in such disrepute in China until recently that the legal profession had shrunk to a tiny number of specialists.

Until now, apart from the state constitution, the only complete and coherent law have been the marriage law of the mid-fifties which laid the groundwork for abolition of the severe discrimination against women.

Prospects for fair and apolitical treatment of human rights cases do not seem to be good after the trial in Peking last year of a dissident publisher, Mr. Wei Jingsheng, who was sentenced to life in prison for disseminating material said to be counter-revolutionary, and for allegedly divulging military secrets to foreigners.

The most lively court case expected this year is the trial of the four leaders in the radical clique around the late Mao Tse-tung which includes his widow, Chairman Hua Guofeng has already stated that none of the four will be executed, despite the fact that they are charged with the crime of plotting against the state and the revolution.

The prior declaration of mercy by Mao's successor will be welcomed by all who abhor political executions, but its present effect, the result of the trial will be the doubt of many people in China about the application, in practice, of the rules of an independent judiciary.

## Would this gain for the police be everyone's loss?

From David Bonavia  
Hongkong, Jan 1

The Government's Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill will provide the Scottish police with powers seldom seen in a democratic society in peace time. It will no doubt also provide the cue for the introduction of the same or similar powers south of the border.

The Government has made it clear that the Bill will seek to implement the relevant proposals of the Thomson Report 1975 (Cmd 6218) and with "minor amendments" certain clauses of the former Labour Government's Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill 1978 which fell at the election. It intended to extend to the police powers to:

1. Detain suspects on the street for as long as is necessary for the purposes of identification and questioning;  
2. Detain suspects in a police station for similar purposes and for up to six hours;  
3. Detain any person whom the policeman believes may have information relating to an offence in order to obtain and verify such information.

The power to detain on the street will be exercisable upon reasonable suspicion that "an offence" has been committed, whilst detention under the six hour rule will be limited to imprisable offences (in fact of course almost all offences are imprisable). In contrast, in England at present a person may only be arrested when reasonably suspected of an offence which carries at least five years' imprisonment.

In addition it seems that under the six hour rule the police will have the right of forcible body-search and even to fingerprint suspects. (According to the rules, if a charge were not preferred all such fingerprints should be destroyed on the release of the detainee.)

All the powers will be exercisable without the requirement of arrest, charge and formal caution, thus severely curtailing the rights of the detainee, who would have no right of access to legal aid or even the right to inform a relative of his whereabouts without police consent.

Phrases such as "reasonable suspicion that an offence has been committed" are open to the broadest interpretation and confer upon the individual policeman the widest discretion. The appearance, manner or character of the "suspect" might well suffice. In such circumstances

it can be of little reassurance that the Thomson Report, 1975, first urged these reforms upon us precisely to "regularize" the apparently widespread abuse by the police of even the limited powers which are currently available to them. Indeed it seems that in consequence of such abuse people are less prepared to cooperate freely with the police, so that, according to Thomson:

"As people become increasingly aware of their rights the present tacit cooperation which makes it possible for the police to function may not continue. A position only to do what they are specifically authorized to do by law."

As a result a new and impoverished idea of equality before the law is to be implemented:

"At worst such legalization of police practices as we propose will place the articulate and knowledgeable citizen in the same position as those currently occupied by the ignorant and inarticulate citizen."

In the past the courts have frowned upon such practices and treated any statement made during illegal detention with great caution and circumspection. The words of Lord Cooper bear out the strong reservations of both the judiciary and the layman alike:

"However convenient the modern practice may be it must normally create a situation very unfavourable to the suspect. In the eyes of every ordinary citizen the venue is a sinister one. When he stands alone in such a place confronted by several police officers, usually some of high rank, the dice are loaded against him, especially as he knows there is no one to corroborate him as to exactly what occurred during the interrogation, how it was conducted and how long it lasted." (Chalmers v Lord Advocate 1954.)

Clearly giving the police greater discretion and consequent freedom from control must open up the possibility of greater abuse. Indeed going on the experience of other countries, it is predictable that the power of detention will come to be used as a deterrent and as an illicit punishment which can be used virtually at will. The consequence would be even greater deterioration of police-community relations. Not to put too fine a point on it, such practices as envisaged are in the words of John Alderson, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, "more akin to those of an army of occupation." (The Granfield Papers, 1978, Paul Press.)

It has been claimed that the crisis in law and order in Scotland as elsewhere

demands extraordinary measures. But the facts do not support the argument. Since last year the 'deficiency in police man-power in Scotland has fallen by 60 per cent and the Secretary of State for Scotland has declared the crisis in police recruitment over. The recently published crime statistics for Scotland show a 30 per cent reduction in murder, 26,791 fewer reported cases of dishonesty (theft, etc.), and a significant and unexpected 4 per cent drop in malicious damage. Even if that were not the case, the sacrifice of the rights and liberties of the citizen are too high a price to pay for what in any case is a misconceived policy.

Already Scottish opposition to any such measures is intense. The Scottish Liberal Party, the Scottish TUC, the British Association of Social Workers, the National Association of Children's Panels, professional bodies of lawyers, professors of law and many other leading politicians, academics and professionals have all voiced their condemnation of these measures.

But of more immediate relevance to those outside Scotland is the impact this legislation will have in the south. The Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure in England and Wales is due to report next year. Already Sir David Maclean has asked for wider powers of detention for the English police. It is sure that should this legislation be passed for Scotland, the Government would have set a precedent which it will then be able to follow in England. Public debate, which has been actively discouraged in Scotland despite repeated demands for the publication of a Green Paper, will thus effectively be pre-empted in England and Wales also.

In a country which has no written constitution the defence of civil liberties is always difficult to carry forward. There are many of us who believe that those liberties will be seriously put at risk by this Government's Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill. It is too much to expect that the Conservative parliamentary party will respect tradition, history and freedom under the law?

R. Kinsey

The author is lecturer in jurisprudence at the University of Edinburgh and chairman of the campaign to stop the Scottish Criminal Justice Bill.

## Mecca governor resigns in Saudi reshuffle

Jiddah, Jan 1.—The provincial governor of Mecca where armed Muslim dissidents seized the Great Mosque last November has resigned and two army generals have been retired.

A Royal decree issued last night said King Khalid had accepted the resignation of the Prince Fawzan bin Abdulaziz for health reasons and ordered the retirement of General Asad Abdulaziz al-Zuhairi and General Ali Majid Kabbani.

A reshuffle in the Saudi Interior Ministry was also announced. General Fayz Muhammad al-Awfi was removed as director-general of security and replaced by the commander of the border forces, General Abdullah bin Abdul Rahman al-Shalikh.—Reuters.

## Saudi oil prices stay unchanged

Bahrain, Jan 1.—Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, has promised to maintain its current crude oil prices, but did not say for how long, the official Saudi press agency said today.

The price reassurance followed predictions by the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey yesterday that Saudi Arabia would soon raise its oil prices by \$2 to \$26 a barrel. The price pledge was made after a two-hour Cabinet meeting in Riyadh.—Reuters.

## Leftist candidate shot dead in Indian election campaign

Delhi, Jan 1.—Mr. Thockchom Bira Singh, a leader of the Communist Party of India in the state of Manipur, was shot dead early today by an armed youth at his residence in Imphal, the state capital.

Mr. Bira Singh, aged 50, was to have been a candidate in the forthcoming election for the State Assembly.

The Parliamentary election campaign started today in the half of India where voters takes place on Thursday. In the other half, which goes to the polls on Sunday, electioneering will end on Friday.

The death of Mr. Bira Singh was the second big incident in Manipur where secessionists have urged voters to boycott the poll. On December 12, Mr. R. K. Ranbir Singh, the Speaker of the State Assembly, was shot and severely wounded by unidentified gunmen in a road in Uttar Pradesh, the largest

## Extra \$200m American aid fails to cheer Israel

From Moshe Brilliant  
Tel Aviv, Jan 1

Israelis are disappointed with President Carter's proposed economic and military assistance package for Israel which was announced yesterday in Washington.

Loans and grants for the fiscal year starting October 1 this year will be \$1,785m (\$811m), the same as in the past four years. However, in response to Israeli appeals for an increase, President Carter decided yesterday on an additional \$200m credit at nine per cent.

This credit will not be part of the package for the coming fiscal year but will be added to the \$2,000m loan approved by Congress last year to finance Israel's reconstruction from Sinai to the Negev in accordance with the peace treaty.

The Israelis originally asked for an aid package of \$3,450m in view of inflation, particularly in the cost of oil and armaments. Israel's bill was heavily affected by the repatriation of oil fields on the Gulf of Suez to Egypt.

Officials had not really expected the larger sum but they believed the aid would be increased in cover at least the 13 per cent inflation in the United States to preserve the value of the aid in real terms. The President's proposal falls far short of this.

The American response was a shock. Mr. Begin, the Prime Minister, who had appealed to President Carter in

a personal letter for an increase for Mr. Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, who went to Washington last week.

Mr. Weizman, answering critics today, said: "If anyone thinks he could have gotten more from the Americans, let him try."

Mr. Yigal Hurwitz, the Finance Minister, said in a television interview last night "two hundred million dollars is not a huge sum of money" but he acknowledged "I cannot say I am happy. It will not answer our needs."

He refused to say what would be done but Mr. Ephraim Dorot, Economic Adviser to the Treasury, said today there will have to be a cutback in arms procurement from the United States or it will have to spread over a longer period with all the obvious security risks.

The officials also said Israel may have to dig into part of its foreign currency reserves for defence spending and will have to take short term loans at higher interest rates which will increase the gap in the international balance of payments.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: Justifying the "extra \$200 million" worth of aid, a statement from the White House said the decision was based on consideration of such factors as inflation and Israel's balance of payments deficit and reflected America's "sympathy and concern for Israel's security and well-being."

Prospects for fair and apolitical treatment of human rights cases do not seem to be good after the trial in Peking last year of a dissident publisher, Mr. Wei Jingsheng, who was sentenced to life in prison for disseminating material said to be counter-revolutionary, and for allegedly divulging military secrets to foreigners.

The most lively court case expected this year is the trial of the four leaders in the radical clique around the late Mao Tse-tung which includes his widow, Chairman Hua Guofeng has already stated that none of the four will be executed, despite the fact that they are charged with the crime of plotting against the state and the revolution.

The prior declaration of mercy by Mao's successor will be welcomed by all who abhor political executions, but its present effect, the result of the trial will be the doubt of many people in China about the application, in practice, of the rules of an independent judiciary.

Five miners killed  
Johannesburg, Jan 1.—Five miners were killed in a roof-fall at the Phoenix colliery at Witbank, east of here, last night.

Hollow predicts that the statistics will be worse during the eighties.

Statistics suggest Australia has the world's highest death rate for 15 people are killed each year per 10,000 cars compared to 3.6 in Britain and 3.3 in the United States.

## Hebrew bible to leave Cairo for restoration

A Labour MP has received permission from President Sadat to remove from Egypt an ancient Hebrew bible in existence. It has 560 pages of gazelle skin.

Mr. Greville Janner MP for Leicester West and President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, has just returned from Egypt and he said yesterday that the bible is present in a safe in a Cairo synagogue, was "falling apart".

He added: "The President has given me permission to have it taken away, restored, put on exhibition, and then returned to Egypt."

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The Marxists' position is virtually unassailable in most of the rural constituencies.

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Leftist consolidation: West Bengal, where voting starts on Sunday, is one state where the election will be decided largely by the official issues (our Calcutta correspondent writes).

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William Rees-Mogg considers the state of Britain at the start of the new decade

## Bishop Berkeley's coach

In both economic and religious matters the British desire to be comfortable; in religious matters they settle for a lower standard of comfort, and the most comfortable materially settle for the barest spiritual poverty.

Manikind is divided into those for whom Bishop Berkeley's coach is no problem, and those for whom it is. The problem is one that ages at their minds until it has changed the world for them, making their world not one of objects, but of perceptions and ideas. The coach first makes its spectral appearance in *An Essay towards a New Theory of Vision* which in 1709 was printed in Dublin, "by Aaron Rhames, at the back of Dick's Coffee House" and one may read it in Sir Geoffrey Keynes' *Bibliography*.

"From what we have shown it is a manifest consequence, that the ideas of space, extension and things based on distance are not, strictly speaking, the object of sight. They are not otherwise perceived by the eye, and by the ear. Sitting in my study I hear a coach drive along the streets. I look through the casement and see it. I walk out and enter into it. Thus, common speech would incline one to think, I heard, saw and touched the same thing, viz: the coach. It is, nevertheless, certain the ideas transmitted by each sense are widely different, and distinct from each other; but having been observed constantly to go together, they are spoken of as one and the same thing."

It may be for practical purposes, that we are as well off considering that a coach is a coach is a coach. It is not disgraceful to accept our habitual associations of ideas. What is certain is that things which are not objects, and never were objects, that are ideas, should be recognized as such, and that our association with other ideas will change what we think they are.

One such idea is that of a nation, and in particular the British nation. How are we to think of Britain? We can think of her history, of Trafalgar or Agincourt, the Domesday Book or the Great Reform Bill or Henry VIII's six wives. We can make the association of a White Paper and think of British Leyland, the gross national product, the index link of public sector pensions or the oil purging in the North Sea. We can think like a politician, of the ballot boxes, of the party conferences mopping and crowing at Blackpool, or ministers and shadows playing ping pong at the despatch box. How little these associations help us to form an idea of Britain.

The idea one can form of a nation is unavoidably superficial and arbitrary. To understand a nation is to understand the personality of a people, and to understand personality is to understand the values of a people, and the values of a people are not in that of an indi-

vidual. Personalities are formed round the will and imagination of the person; how can one discover the will and imagination of a people? What is certain is that the will and imagination of Britain are not engaged by the tasks with which Britain now has to deal.

The British are not much moved by economics, or economics, or by technology, and only a little by science. They no longer, as a nation, set themselves to achieve high economic objectives, and they are both bored and resentful when it is suggested that they ought to do so. Some individuals seek high economic objectives, usually of personal wealth, but often also of more general development. These individuals tend to be regarded with curiosity, sometimes with suspicion, often with jealousy.

Many of the British do have an economic ambition, but it is to be comfortable, not to be rich. Nor do the British wish to change to new technology; gradually over the centuries they have adapted to the discoveries of science, but only for brief periods have they done so with enthusiasm, and the last was more than a century ago, under the influence of a foreign prince.

In Isaiah Berlin's essay on Georges Sorel, he observes that "the great machine of science does not yield answers to problems of metaphysics or morality; it can only solve the problems of human life in terms of means, that is, of technology, is not to understand what they are." This is something the British accept; whatever else they may be they are not worshippers of technology, or of supposedly scientific political theories.

It is not surprising that the nation whose poet is Shakespeare should at heart be indifferent both to the doctrines of Adam Smith and of Karl Marx; these philosophers' temperament of thought, the logical clarity of the Scots, the prophetic socialism of the German—are alike alien to British common sense. The British

regard lucidity as superficial and intellectual passion as ill mannered; this protects them both from enlightenment and enthusiasm.

Yet the British do not seem now to respond either to the calls of metaphysical or moral challenge. There is something downhearted about the modern English at prayer. Of course many of their churches were first built before the Reformation, and one reads in their architecture a different and medieval spirituality. Yet one can see in the sparsely Anglican church architecture of Wren's period, that there was another time when the Englishman had confidence in his worship.

The confidence is there in the literature too; no one who reads spiritual books at all can read without admiration and love the spiritual writings of George Berkeley himself, of Jeremy Taylor, of Joseph Butler or of William Law. Unfortunately, the British have little idea of the wealth of this literature, which is comparable to the wealth of English poetry.

St Paul's Cathedral is one of the greatest cathedrals in the world; it is the equal of St Peter's in Rome as a masterpiece of spiritual as opposed to merely ecclesiastical architecture. It has a different thrust from St Peter's; both as it is natural to the baroque style, and as it is the central leave in the mind a strong impression of movement, but St Paul's with its deep internal perspectives and its long axis, has a much stronger direction of movement. St Peter's movement is a general outward explosion of the circumference, like a plum pudding aflame with brandy; St Paul's drives forward, a stern vehicle of grace determined to arrive at its destination.

Yet the British do not crowd into St Paul's, Sunday after Sunday, service after service, to express a national sense of worship and awe, to make it their Mayflower. If they are asked by a public opinion poll, most of them say that they believe

in God, but for most it is a cool and indifferent belief, not one which requires collective worship or perhaps acquiescence of any kind. Just as they have no great desire to be rich, so they have no great desire to be holy; in both economic and religious matters the British desire to be comfortable; in religious matters they settle for a lower standard of comfort and the most comfortable materially often settle for the barest spiritual poverty.

In morality the British are perhaps to be seen at their best. They are peaceable. Their moderation makes them good neighbours; they are often good citizens; they support charity. Yet the morality which requires hard thought and difficult action, in particular the morality which cuts against the grain of sentiment, finds out their weakness.

For dogs, yes; for starving children, great generosity; for cancer, certainly. But for single parents, not so much. For prisoners, not at all. We have years and over years of prisons where convicts live in conditions that are a scandal to our country. It is not a matter on which politicians believe that greater expenditure would have popular support.

How will such a nation fare in the 1980s? The economic problems will not be solved unless the spiritual need is met. Britain will not be saved by silicon chips, though Britain might well be undone by failing to use them. The sickness of the nation is that it lacks a guiding principle, a central idea around which other ideas can be organized. Such central ideas have been found in politics, though political ideas have the capacity to animate a society only for a limited time; with revolutions as with volcanoes, the lava cools before long.

Such central ideas the individual can often find in abstract ideals, though it is doubtful whether a whole society can be inspired by justice or compassion or any similar motive in its impersonal form. Far more often, and more strongly,

the animating idea has historically been religious, and indeed religious belief seems to act like a conductor of the mind, setting the whole orchestra to play in harmony.

For those who are believers, Christian or otherwise, this may be an acknowledged truth. Those who are not, including those who approach religious subjects from the point of view of dogmatic non-belief, may take the lesser point of an apparently true story told by John Locke: "A young gentleman, having learnt to dance, and that to great perfection, there happened to stand an old drunk in the room where he learned. The idea of this remarkable piece of household stuff, had so mixed itself with the turns and steps of all his dances, that though in that chamber he could dance excellently well, yet it was only while that drunk was there; nor could he perform well in any other place, unless that or some such other drunk had its due position in the room." Lacking a leading idea, Britain stumbles buffoonishly over the steps of the modern dance.

As for the British people, Bishop Berkeley thought this of them. "What might have been is only conjecture. What has been, it is not difficult to know. That there is a vein in Britain of as rich an ore as ever was in any country, I will not deny; but it lies deep and will cost pains to come at; and extraordinary pains, require an extraordinary motive." The words are from *Alcibiades*, which was first published in 1732. One might think they apply more powerfully to the Britain of the 1980s than they did to the age of Sir Robert Walpole.

We have no way to judge the timing of any awakening of Britain's extraordinary motive. Such revivals spring from humility, not from pride, but Britain has indeed been suffering a gradual long term humiliation.

Nor can we be sure that it will come, if it comes, without bringing great troubles and even wrongs with it. We do not know what the state of the British nation really is; we can hear the coach, the clatter of hooves and wheels and harness; we can see the colours, a pattern of paint and light. But the coach itself is an idea, and we know through imperfect vision, the perception of Patrick Berkeley's coach already has Locke's old trunk on board, though that can be seen neither by eye nor heard. Perhaps the idea of Britain is already pregnant with the idea that will save Britain.

Against the Current. Essays in the History of Ideas by Isaiah Berlin, Hogarth Press £9.50.

## Mighty Coe has the world on the run

To be honest about it, Sebastian Coe's summer exploits still take some believing.

The first of his world records, the 800 metres at Oslo on July 5, was really an enormous check—after all, it meant Albert Salama, a Cuban, ceding top place to Britain's number two—but nevertheless it was acceptable. This was Coe's event, or so we thought.

Twelve days later (July 17) he delivered the thunderbolt. Coe doubled the distance and humiliated the mile specialists on the same Bislett track at Oslo. It was his first and his only four-lap race of the season.

Within a month (August 15) he stretched his legs for the first and again only time over 1,500 metres, the "metric mile", at Zurich. Another world record. The scapula of two more giants of the track, New Zealand's John Walker, and Filbert Bayi of Tanzania, had joined that of Juan Antonio.

No one had ever held these three records before. He looked unbeatable. The slight boyish-looking, relaxed 22-year-old Briton seemed capable of anything on an afternoon off from Loughborough University. Coe also finished the season as fastest in the land, or champion, at every distance from 400 metres to 3,000 metres.

Of course, even an instant access, ever-shrinking world has a corner left for Super Runner, but he/she ought to emerge from the other side of the Andes out of Africa's darkest and densest jungle. Not from Sheffield, United Kingdom. Sportsmen from advanced countries, like people, perform to a standard, they know their place, they generally respect the hierarchy.

That has all been changed by Sebastian Newbold Coe, trespasser extraordinary. Instead of a quiet, pre-Olympic year with the favourites still picking over, Coe arrived explosively and had the nerve to do it his way, applying full pressure to the knees of destruction. In just 41 days scores of hopes for 1980 evaporated.

Across the world, training schedules were scrapped and rewritten to accommodate Coe's daring innovations in leg and lap speeds. For many, the ease and safety with which he seemed to be avoiding Coe altogether.

Walker, for instance, will try himself over 5,000 metres in New Zealand next month and the highly-rated West German, Thomas Wessinghage, has also transferred to that distance. Which itself will encourage a further exodus; already we learn that both Brendan Foster and Mike McLeod are listed as starters in a marathon in Auckland on February 3.

Even at home there is anxiety about Coe's Olympic intentions. As fastest over one lap (45.5sec) in a relay in Torino might the selectors want him for that event too? Or will he contest one of the coveted 5,000 metre places if a severe winter limits his speed training? Countless Moscow aspirants are dying to know and time is running out.

It is almost an athlete's musical chair with Coe at the piano, pulling out the seats and leaping for a place himself.

He enjoys the rare privilege—along with Steve Crompton—of being ranked an Olympic "super elite". This means he is assured of a Games place at 800 metres or 1,500 metres, or both, without being required to take part in the British Olympic trials. All he need do is prove he is in shape, by performing within the qualifying standard time during the run-up to Moscow.

If Coe elects to go for just these two events, the intriguing possibility then arises that all his big runs in 1980—what could perhaps be his last year—might once more be performed outside this country, as they were last summer.

Malmo, Oslo (twice), Turin, Viareggio, Zurich, these were the cities that saw Coe live. Between the two Oslo records, Zurich was witness to it. More than 400 metre championship (finishing second to a Sudanese) but this gave the British only a brief glimpse, not enough to be convinced he existed.

In spring and up to the end of June he had raced regularly for Loughborough and for his club—experimenting with fast starts, injecting bursts and changes of pace—but the pub he at that time was not interested.

By August 15 he was the most sought-after runner on earth. The media and promoters were at his feet and the Letzigrund stadium, Zurich, was witness to it. More than 160 reporters and the crews of 14 television companies got themselves by hook or by crook into a 27,000-capacity football ground already bursting at the seams. It was to be Coe's last track race of the year, though none knew it.

What appealed to the Swiss was the prospect of David slaying his third Goliath, and as *sympathische Engländer*, the Swiss called him, did not fail them. He gave out. Obstacles (such as the threatened removal of Steve Overi) had been removed; it was the last even (10.10 pm) and the crowd's appetite had been whetted by the sight of Coe's European and America's best in action. It was the famous Wellesles meeting, the gem on the calendar with Coe as the Kobi-nator.

A Kenyan threw in a 54:0c opening lap, it was all set up. The Swiss roared him home as if he were their own son and he clipped Bayi's record by a fraction to 3min 32.1sec.

Coe fled Zurich early in the morning and since that time has managed to keep one step in front of the media, ranging from comics to Japanese television—"We turned down a fortune from them for an interview, so you can imagine what chance Nationwide had", said Coe's father/coach/mentor, Peter. The emphasis now is on post-graduate work at Loughborough.

Of the three records, Coe rates the 800 metres (1min 42.4sec) highest since it chopped the great Cuban's time by more than a second—worth eight metres. The mile he was called off. Coe had to maintain the inevitable fast opening pace into and beyond the third lap. He did and it was a great leap forward into the unknown from his previous best of 3min 47.7sec.

It was a factor working in his favour on this second trip to Oslo was the milers' belief that Coe lacked the stamina to stay out in front. Uncomfortable at his presence, they gladly let him go off, a mistake unlikely to be repeated. But of the three, the mile was the real race.

Nevertheless, all three races were run in full season, without specific preparation and straight after finishing exams. A virus in mid-June did not help.

Has Coe shot his bolt too early? It is the obvious question. Perhaps a year like 1979 will never occur again and Coe will take his place among the trail-blazers who failed to make it at the Olympics. Perhaps he has given rivals sufficient time to attune their bodies and minds to accept opening laps of 49 seconds or to produce murderous sub-25 second half-lap bursts before the 1,500 metre bell—and survive.

But Coe and his father know this too. "Sebec" is by no means at his limits, far from it, judging by this summer. He is as close to an Olympic double at 800 and 1,500 as anyone has ever been. The last Briton to achieve it was Albert Hill at Antwerp in 1920.

Michael Coleman

Bernard Levin

## Reflections on being robbed outside Fortnum's

We wuz robbed! This time-honoured cry, traditionally ascribed to the managers of defeated boxers (the *New Yorker* once published a characteristically cynical variation on it in the form of a cartoon showing a boxer being carried from the ring on a stretcher, evidently having been knocked about in a frightful manner, and with his last strength saying to his manager: "All of a sudden, you stopped saying 'We'"), could be heard, a few days before Christmas, echoing down Piccadilly in unusually vehement tones from the lips of your devoted servant. The fact of the matter is, I wuz robbed, and I cannot make up my mind whether it makes it better or worse that the nefarious deed was done outside Fortnum and Mason.

We shall come to the philosophical reflections the experience has inspired in a minute; before that, I offer an account of it. (Though before that, I may say, I was inspired by a rage so, instantly aroused and so deeply rooted that, I had sported the thief making off with my property I would have pushed him under a bus without hesitation, and regretted my impulsiveness only afterwards if at all. But I think that is what I mean by philosophical reflections, and will be dealt with in due course.)

It was like this, officer. I had been lunching in the fourth-floor restaurant at Fortnum's, and I am sorry to say that I arrived early. Sorry, because that meant that I had had time to buy one of the last

of my Christmas presents, feeling very pleased with myself for having thus utilized a spare 10 minutes, and the gift-wrapped parcel was among the things stolen. More—much more, for that gift can be got again (unlike the one I lost). The Levin means that it was the very last one Fortnum's had in stock—I was lunching with the mother of my beautiful blonde god-daughter, and the booty also included their present to me. O, I would not have lost it for a wilderness of monkeys!

We emerged; she was going in an opposite direction; we embraced and parted. I was carrying two cases: one large, one small—the latter my beloved black briefcase. Fortnum's, as Piccadilly Johnnie will know, is separated from the roar of London's traffic by a counter-flowing channel for buses only. I crossed it, looking carefully both ways (you never know, Mr Benn might have got a Christmas job with the bus company, in which case he is perfectly capable of driving in the wrong direction down a one-way bus-lane) and took up station on the narrow strip of land that serves as the northern border for the bus channel. On this avenue the Fortnum's commissionaire plied his taxi-getting trade. I put down the larger, heavy case, keeping the briefcase in my hand; a likely-looking taxi horned in sight; I put down the briefcase to get the money from my pocket wherewith to fee the doorman; the taxi stopped, the doorman ushered me towards it, and I turned to pick up my briefcase in vain.

If the thief reads The Times—and surely all well-bred thieves do?—may I beg him to return the valueless part of the contents?

Stop thief! Apprehend that villain! A constable, a constable, my kingdom for a constable! These and other traditional cries sprang to my lips, only to die away unheeded. For my briefcase, and the knave who took it, were nowhere to be seen, though he had only had, at most, 15 seconds start. Moreover, I can but salute his integrity, for the strip of land on which I was standing in any ordinary sense of the word; its only use is to provide a pull-up and departure area for Fortnum's and the adjacent shops—it is not a pedestrian thoroughfare at all. Our robber had had to step left the pavement, cross to the strip, pick up my treasure and return to the pavement, all without any ostensible reason for doing so. All I had to do was turn my head a fraction, and he would have been caught with the goods literally in his hand. (I may say that if he had been, I would have expected him—I am, after all, notoriously a traditionalist—to say "It's a fair cop, guv'nor".)

The rage followed. It was

not based, I am happy to say, on the loss of valuable possessions. True, the briefcase was an expensive one, and it contained my pocket tape-recorder; it also contained, as I have said, the gift I had just bought and the present package from Candida and Co. But the rage was based first on the realization that it also contained papers and letters, of no financial value to me or anybody else, but the loss of which is going to prove a nuisance in the most tedious and prolonged inconvenience. (If the thief reads The Times—and surely all well-bred thieves do?—may I beg him to return the valueless part of the case's contents? My address is in the leather label-holder attached to the handle; or he could send the things to me here. Oh, do have a heart: you robbed me at the festive season, after all.)

But I believe the rage was based on something older, deeper and much more positive than anything that can be explained in logical terms, either of financial loss or inconvenience. The truth—it is

rather a glorious truth, when you come to think of it—is that we do not expect to be robbed. We know, even if only vaguely, what the crime statistics are, just as we know what the car-crash statistics are, but we no more go about our lawful occasions dwelling on the possibility of being robbed than we do so wondering whether we are going to be run over.

This may seem obvious; but it enshrines something very far from obvious. We trust the universe; and we are, of course, right to do so. Many thieves rob many people, but the thieves are still, as they always have been and I firmly believe always will be, a very small minority indeed, and the vast majority of us go about our lawful occasions unaware of the possibility of becoming a victim of one of the other catastrophes of modern living, including car-crashes, hijacking and even the abrupt onset of actuarially improbable fatal disease.

Mr Peregrine Worsthorpe once pointed out that the advertisements in the news papers provide a much more accurate picture of the world than the news does. He was being whimsical, but only partly. For the advertisements suggest the supposition that off and land safety, and almost all of them do; that butter tastes nice, which on the whole it does; and that soap, correctly used, will wash the user, as is certainly the case.

Other hand, he never goes accurate, tell us only of air-craft which crash, packets of butter that have unfortunately been adulterated with a deadly

poison and have consequently wiped out whole families at a stroke, and soap which, by some unfortunate mischance on the part of the manufacturers turns the user's face black.

Such is life. I was shocked beyond measure by the theft of my briefcase, because I do not expect my fellow-men to be thieves, and most of them aren't. Of course, logic came back, and I found myself cursing the thief and wondering why he doesn't work for his living as I do. But instinct is stronger, and indeed truer, than logic, and as I prepare to be scolded, broken down, spindled and microfilmed—all of which are the inescapable concomitants of becoming a crime statistic even in a small way—I comfort myself with the sense of order restored, after the violent wrenching from its path that took place outside Fortnum's on the Thursday before Christmas. That wrenching was very violent; it proclaimed for a moment that the universe was random and without form, that every man's hand was raised against his neighbour, and that there was no health in us. Then the second taxi, summoned by the patient and sympathetic doorman of Fortnum's, arrived, and my heart was once more at peace.

All the same, the loss of those papers is very inconvenient; send them back, friend, and Candida's present, if you please.

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## MOSCOW DIARY

### Broomball, such a deadly serious game

The Russians must think us foreigners crazy. Every winter, just as the frost begins to get a grip and the Russians get ready for sensible sports such as skating and skiing, foreigners start trooping into the hardware shops. There they buy ordinary Russian hand brooms made of dried feathery reeds, bound together with split sticks.

Burly counsellors, attachés, First Secretaries, businessmen and journalists go out clutched their prizes. A few days later they can be seen melting their way round Moscow clad in the most extraordinary garb—plastic helmets, sweaters of all hues, jeans with huge plastic shin shields taped on their legs and gym shoes. Sometimes they explain elliptically to puzzled policemen: "Broomball".

Broomball is a purely Moscow game. It started about 20 years ago, when the eponymous founder, a Second Secretary at the British Embassy, wallpapered a children's plastic ball across the frozen embassy tennis court with a Russian broom.

And, like the game of rugby, a whole new tradition was invented.

Canadian chauvinists occasionally contend that the game began in North America. But although there is a game played with long-handled brooms, it bears only marginal resemblance to the genuine Moscow version.

Basically, Broomball is a modification of ice hockey, with only six players a side. But since the rules state you have to wear rubber-soled shoes, it is an impossibly silly game as you cannot stop on the ice. Players huddle about in all directions. Sometimes the ball stops tantalizingly close to you, but as in a bad dream you just cannot move towards it as your momentum is still taking you away in the other direction.

Over the years the game developed. Teams were formed, a league was drawn up, second secretaries from other embassies began to join in. It was found that the broom packed a much better punch if the feathery twigs were bound up with string—better still, curved round at the end to form a hook, and tightly wrapped with sticky tape.

The authentic broomball stick now looks nothing like an instrument for sweeping the floor—though the rules state that the brooms must still peek out at the end. Dipping the broom in water and allowing it

to freeze overnight is definitely forbidden, however.

The game could only be played at the British Embassy as it was the only place with a fenced tennis court that could be flooded and frozen. But anything involving ice soon attracts Scandinavians, and they too formed teams. The Finnish Embassy made its rink available, and so too did the new Swedish Embassy. The Saturday afternoon games altered between the three. It was named between the three: the year the Malaysians, who do not play, very generously donated their court—possibly to try and find out what goes on.

### Amateur nonchalance

Now broomball has become a deadly serious affair. There are 13 men's and eight women's teams this year. The entry of the Finns and the Americans did much to destroy the old amateur nonchalance. The Finns play to win—and usually do. But the American Marines are not lightly beaten, and the Canadians have brought some of their tough ice-hockey tactics to the sport.

All sorts of new rules had to be invented to stop people being smashed to bits on the ice. You may not touch the ball with

your hands, or kick it, you must keep your broom about your shoulder to stop a ball ("cross-sticking"), or bash your opponent in the face with it ("cross-sticking"). Consistently unsportsmanlike behaviour gets you thrown off the court for two minutes.

If your broom falls to bits in mid-game—as it often does—you may change it, and you can swap players any time, though no more than six may be on the ice at any moment. There is no off-side, and the ball is always "live", so if it does go into a snow bank at the side of the ice, you can back around with your stick trying to dig it out. The goalie can throw the ball within a certain zone.

Each game has three referees, and lasts an hour, broken up into three 20-minute periods. It is traditional to have a good gulp of vodka and hot coffee in between periods.

I played my first game at the opening of the season. Our team is called "The Moscow Pits" (no one quite knows what P.I.T.S. stands for, but we have various rude interpretations). We have bright orange sweaters, and of course, from Helsinki, with a pretty design on the front and on the back the single Russian letter "ya" (a back-to-front R) which means "I". The idea is that the ref

cannot easily identify us as each can respond "I?"

One idiosyncrasy of broomball is that you are allowed to use your plastic shin-shields as sledges. The best way of getting across the ice fast is to go down on your knees and launch yourself at your opponent. The result is a huge collision.

Our team is dedicated to restoring the amateur status of the game, but I am afraid we are taken as a bit of a joke. We refused to practice (unlike both the men's and the women's teams of the Anglo-American school, who were out practising the moment snow first fell).

But our co-captain, a magnificently rotund commercial attaché at the American Embassy, fills the entire goal and gained us a moral victory by holding us to a defeat of only 7-2 by the S.A.S. (Scandinavian All-Stars) team. There is even some sedition, whispering on the team about a little practice before the next game.

This match turned out to be rather less friendly than the one against the gentle Scandinavians. We were playing the American defence attaché's office, and fielded a rather professional side. Perhaps I should declare that my less enthusiastic assessment is due to a personal mishap: I was coming

"Perhaps the best way to get over the holiday is to go out and see a new movie..."



in for a splendid colliding tackle only to find the foot I was attempting to pin down the ice had disappeared, and I did a quick forward somersault in mid-air.

Unfortunately as I hit the ice, I split my lip and had to retire. There are two magnificent foreign doctors in Moscow—one British and one American—who are quite used to dealing with the oddest ailments of the Moscow community, and I made my way to the American Embassy where the Soviet guards concluded that broomball must indeed be a very rough game that only real men play.

The American doctor, a qualified plastic surgeon as it happens, sewed me up so well that I now have only the faintest trace of a broomball scar, which can hardly qualify as a proper sporting injury of the German duelling kind.

Our team, I was flattered to learn, were very solicitous about my wound, and also drew the appropriate lessons. Our last game was played against a women's team from the Anglo-American school. The result was a magnificent 13-1 victory. The ladies took it very well. The goals will probably have to last the "pits" for the rest of our season.

The league is now so big that some games have to be played on Wednesday evenings under floodlights. The latest entrants are the French. Their debut

one day they are rumored to be Moscow residents around to allow the game to be played in the land of its inventor.

Michael Binyon

مكزامن التاحل





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## ANNEXATION OF AFGHANISTAN

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has rung alarm bells in the capitals of Nato, Pakistan, India, China, Iran and many other countries. It has been widely condemned as an act of unprovoked naked aggression against a sovereign state outside the Warsaw Pact. It has caused President Carter to revise his opinion of Soviet motives. It has almost certainly destroyed what few hopes remained that the SALT treaty could be ratified before the American elections. It has brought Nato governments together to discuss counter-measures. It has antagonized Muslims and probably committed the Soviet Union to a prolonged fighting against Muslim insurgents within Afghanistan itself. What can the Soviet leaders have expected to gain for this heavy price? And what can the west do to ensure that the price is truly heavy?

Of course the invasion is in the long Russian tradition of expansion southwards towards the warm water, but short and medium-term aims must have determined the timing. Moreover the invasion looks at the moment more like an act of defensive aggression (which is also in the Russian tradition) than naked expansionism. Like the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 it reveals a frightened Soviet regime that has failed to sustain its influence by political means and is too insecure to withdraw. Like the Czechoslovak invasion, too, it may have been intended to stop a form of rot—in this case Muslim unrest—spreading into the Soviet Union itself. Moscow has been deeply unsettled by events in Iran.

Seen from Moscow the regime of Mr. Amin was squandering a Soviet investment in Afghanistan that had been built up over many years. He was antagonizing Muslim neighbours and, worst of all, losing the battle against Muslim insurgents within his own country. He was also allowing a lot of Soviet advisors to be killed. Moscow would well have feared that he would be overthrown and replaced by a militant Islamic regime of the Iranian type. With more than forty million Muslims of their own they could do without this type of regime on their borders.

### One more step

The size of the military operation certainly indicates nervousness. If the aim had been merely to change the regime it could have been achieved by simpler methods, probably without any overt armed intervention at all. The aim must have been to put a quick lid on insurgency.

The Soviet leaders may then have been tempted by the gains to be won from a swift seizure of full control in Afghanistan. First of all it would represent an historic military and territorial gain—and military men may well be in the ascendant in the manoeuvres to determine the successor to Mr. Brezhnev. The effective frontiers of the Soviet Union would again have been pushed outwards, and another step taken towards the warm waters. More tempting still, the Soviet Union would be better placed to take advantage of a possible collapse of the Khomeini regime in Iran, for if such a collapse does occur the left wing is likely to step forward as the only organized

force capable of restoring a semblance of order. The Soviet Union would then have a client regime in Tehran, and could even be invited in to help protect it against "imperialist plots". The west's oil supplies would become extremely vulnerable and the Soviet Union could exploit the political leverage thereby gained. It would also be more strategically placed in relation to Pakistan and China. A few disapproving noises from the west and a few years spent pacifying Afghan insurgents would seem a relatively small price to pay for such an increase in influence in a vital area.

### A mistake?

If this speculative analysis bears any relation to the actual thinking of the Kremlin, at least two conditions will have to be fulfilled for the attack on Afghanistan to be judged a success. First, the Soviet Union will have to earn some credibility as a friend of Islam. Secondly, the west will have to fail to impose a price that is really felt in Moscow.

The first condition still looks remote. Admittedly Mr. Babrak Karmal, the new puppet ruler of Afghanistan, appears to have been instructed to hold out a conciliatory hand to the rebels, but there is no sign of it being accepted. Most of the rebels are likely to fight on, and while they can be subdued by the Red Army they cannot be eliminated. Mr. Karmal's regime will therefore be seen to be in a state of continuous war with Muslims and to be utterly dependent on a foreign power. This will not do him or the Russians much good.

Nor will neighbouring countries fail to see that if the Russians can invade Afghanistan without the slightest excuse relating to their own security they can do the same to others. This is not the way to win friends. It may win influence by inspiring fear, and this is certainly a factor to be reckoned with, but militant Islam tends to be relatively unfrightened. Perhaps therefore, the Soviet Union has made a monumental mistake, over-reaching itself and stiffening resistance to its ambitions.

Unfortunately the west cannot sit back and rely on this. The fact must be faced that the Soviet Union has committed an act of unprovoked aggression against a sovereign country outside its own alliance. This has serious implications. In the early 1970s it was reasonable to assume that although the Soviet Union's long-term aims remained constant it had reached a phase in which it was anxious to engage in certain mutually beneficial forms of greater economic interdependence, curbs on the arms race, and limited agreement on rules of political competition to lessen the danger of war.

Even now, there is no reason to doubt that this was true at the time, and that to a certain extent, or among some of the Soviet leaders, it remains true today. The Soviet Union needs peace, commerce, grain, some curbs on the arms race, and the psychological satisfaction of being treated as a respectable world power. But international business of this sort requires the Soviet Union to earn a certain level of credibility and to respect certain principles. High on

the list of these principles are those so frequently enunciated by the Soviet Union itself—non-intervention, respect for sovereignty, non-aggression, non-use of force.

These principles were violated in the invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union paid a fairly heavy price in the loss of loyalty among western communists and the loss of hope among reformist communists in eastern Europe who might in the long run have created an area more sympathetic to the Soviet Union than will now be possible. But the west was relatively tolerant because the invasion was confined within an area which had come to be respected as part of the Soviet Union's security system.

The invasion of Afghanistan does not even have this very limited justification. There was no visible threat to Soviet security. Nor is there any credible evidence of an invitation. The invasion was just a straightforward military operation against a foreign country. The first inevitable effect, therefore, is to destroy every last vestige of credibility in Soviet promises to respect international rules of behaviour. Who will now listen with anything but derision when Soviet representatives make speeches about sovereignty and non-intervention? Who will take seriously a Soviet signature on declarations of this sort?

### Careful appraisal

This is the price the Soviet leaders have imposed upon themselves. It remains for the west to seek to show that aggression does not pay. Nato has already held consultation. There is unanimity on the seriousness of the situation but not yet on what is to be done. Predictably, Mrs. Thatcher is for a somewhat tougher line than some of her European colleagues. However, it is early days yet, and there is no need to rush. In the first place it is good diplomacy to give the Russians a chance to carry out their promised withdrawal before appearing to lose face by doing so. Secondly, it is important to weigh considerations carefully.

Obviously the first step is to go to the Security Council, and this is being taken. The Soviet Union will use its veto but should be seen to be condemned by non-aligned as well as western members. Bilateral political and cultural visits seem likely to suffer. A boycott of the Olympics has been mentioned in passing but it would not be in the power of all western governments to enforce it. Suspension of certain commercial transactions is probably the most difficult sanction to organize because it requires competitors to agree, but there will obviously be strong pressure on President Carter to suspend grain deliveries. This would aggravate the meat shortage in the Soviet Union and increase already extensive dissatisfaction among consumers.

For the rest there is no need to be too specific at this stage. What matters is the realization that if the Soviet Union continues to get away with direct and indirect military interventions as it has in Africa, Cambodia and Afghanistan the world will become a more dangerous place and western influence will inexorably diminish.

## Liturgy and doctrine

From the Bishop of Durham

Sir, Now that some of the doctrinal debate within the Roman Catholic Church has spilled over into criticism of the Church of England for its apparent lack of doctrinal standards, it might be instructive to recall earlier correspondence on the Prayer Book, in which the Church of England was criticized for wanting a liturgy more in tune with present-day theological understanding.

Anglicans are used to critics who want to have it both ways, and I am not concerned to make a cheap point about the *via media*. More central to the present discussion is the relationship between liturgy and doctrine and the claim, to which I would myself subscribe, that in the last resort Christian truth has to be prayed and lived rather than expressed in authoritative propositions.

Liturgical revision is thus a theological activity, perhaps the most basic theological activity in which a church can engage. It follows from this that the test of orthodoxy is essentially a liturgical test. The essence of belief in the Incarnation is, and I would suggest always has been, a willingness to treat Jesus Christ as an object of worship. The essence of belief in the Trinity is a willingness to pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit.

In the Declaration of Assent, clergy of the Church of England are asked in general terms whether they stand within its doctrinal tradition. Then come the words of the specific declaration: "I will use only the forms of service which are authorized or allowed by Canon".

The fact that the range of services now authorized is very wide is a reflection of the broad doctrinal orthodoxy which the Church of England stands. It is absurd to suggest, however, that the range is without limits, and that "anything goes" either liturgically or doctrinally. Clear limits have been set, and clergy who cannot with integrity keep inside them should be persuaded to do the honourable thing, and resign.

Yours faithfully,  
\*JOHN DUNELM,  
Auckland Castle,  
Bishop Auckland,  
Co Durham,  
December 28.

From Mrs J. M. Rae

Sir, The news and editorial columns of various papers have recently had much to say about the differences of opinion between Edward Schillebeeckx on the one hand and Rome on the other. Both sides are beginning to attract supporters to defend their opinions, and the exchanges are likely to go on for some time. I have been reading the news of the Christmas and even from life as the majority of us experience it.

Martin Israel says (*Summons to Life*, p.24): "Whatever is said about God is wrong, for He transcends all categories, so that even a condemnation of everything that is not God is wrong. God is known to be in the experience of our own souls. Without that experience, He is merely an intellectual hypothesis or a theological construction."

I have recently returned from India where I worked for a few weeks at Mother Teresa's home for the dying in Calcutta—Kaliagh. Colin Semper in a BBC broadcast described the atmosphere of the home—"the place of the pure heart"—as calm and deeply holy. He went on: "My visit to the home for the dying had a profound effect on me, more profound than any other visit I have made to any other place in the world." While I was there I saw the effect the place had on a team from the American NBC News, and another from the Toronto Star.

These men, professionals, were so deeply moved that one was in tears. Yet there is nothing horrific about the place, rather an atmosphere of love. In fact, it was given the most profound spiritual experience of my life. I found, as I had been told, that in ministering as best I could to these "poorest of the poor" I was ministering to Christ himself.

This is the background against which I find the present controversy so disturbing. Whoever is right about God—and the "rightness" can only be partial for absolute truth resides in God alone—is nearer to knowing God. St. James says: "Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith" (Ch 2, v 18 RV). At Kaliagh the nuns and brothers of the Sisters of the Holy Family, together with helpers from all over the world, are finding the truth of this—that their deeds lead to faith and to a direct experience of God.

It is not necessary, however, to go to Kaliagh to achieve this. It is necessary, in fact, it is essential, to love Christ in our neighbour—the man or woman next door, down the street, on the train—wherever God in man is in need. With such a direct experience, the truths of Christianity will be self-evident. Yours sincerely,  
DAPHNE RAE,  
Westminster School,  
17 Dean's Yard, SW1,  
Christmas Day.

### Privileged home buyers

From the Reverend John Vaughan

Sir, One aspect of the housing market is being passed over in silence despite its adverse effect on ordinary people. This is the practice of the major banks and some business houses in granting loans at very low rates of interest to their employees.

This may well recruit and retain staff, but it means that prices are driven up by this increased pressure of demand. Those who have not this type of backing have to suffer, and for this reason this special advantage in the housing market should be eliminated. Yours, etc.

JOHN VAUGHAN,  
St George's Vicarage,  
96 Pioneer View,  
Harrow, Middlesex,  
December 27.

## Future of the motor industry

From the Chairman of BL Limited

Sir, The Times, in its leading articles about BL over the past few weeks, has been generous in its support of what the Company is fighting to achieve. The fight at BL is not just to secure the survival of the Company but also to reverse the steady decline of the British motor industry; a matter with which everyone in this country should be concerned.

The superficial judgment of our many critics, who have various solutions for curing our ills ranging from buying out to liquidation, is that the British motor industry has no future. Certainly BL has had weaknesses, but many of these are being corrected; for example, the number of industrial disputes in BL caused by internal factors dropped dramatically in 1979 and productivity before the national engineering strike began to show a healthy rise. The ballot on the Recovery Plan, where 87 per cent of the employees voted Yes, shows a change in attitude which cannot be ignored.

The truth is that competition in the motor industry in Britain is keener than in any other country in Europe, so any weaknesses are exploited rapidly. And it is so intense, I suggest, not because manufacturers in other countries are so much better but because of the exceptional buying habits of people in Britain.

As an example, take the matter of Japanese car imports. Are the French, German and Italian motor industries that much stronger than they could hold Japanese penetration of their markets last year to 2.1 per cent, 5.5 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively while in Britain, Japanese cars took 10.6 per cent of the market? No—we must look to a healthy local chauvinism in those countries for much of the answer; this chauvinism is virtually non-existent in Britain.

In Britain it has become fashionable to buy "exotic" foreign cars. How else can one explain why trade union officials who are wedded to fighting unemployment drive around in cars made in Germany, Sweden, and elsewhere? Directors of UK companies, Government officials, local authorities, etc., do likewise.

Members of both Houses of Parliament are not averse to import-

ing unemployment. Even MPs buy foreign cars while unemployment soars! If you do not believe me, ask your MP whether he drives a British built car. Ask your union leader or your shop steward about the car he drives and why. Not one that "sounds British" but one actually made in Britain, as BL's new Honda designed car will be and as 99 per cent of BL's sales in Britain.

Corby's great steel works is to close with the loss of thousands of jobs. Would you believe that Corby has a very high concentration of foreign-made cars using foreign-made steel and foreign-made components? Do you know that half of the cars driven in Corby are of foreign origin?

People don't stop to think about how many jobs are lost in Britain every time foreign cars are purchased. People don't stop to think about the cost to the taxpayer for the unemployment which follows as night follows day. How many boardrooms have a policy of buying British cars and trucks? Some, but too few.

In France, Germany, Italy (and certainly Japan) their national instincts are to buy the home produced product. Why should we take a broader EEC view when other members of the EEC do not? We desperately need to restore an attitude of enlightened self-interest in Britain, and it is the leaders of our country, of our industries and our unions who must light the way. It is self-control not import control that we need!

Quite soon BL will be launching a major "Buy British" campaign. It is sad that we have to ask British people to do no more than other nationalities have been doing as the most natural and sensible thing in the world.

We need the practical support of British consumers to restore the prosperity of the British motor industry—and we need it now. Our managers and workforce have shown a high degree of realism in recent months and they really do deserve your enlightened support. It is time you backed them.

Yours sincerely,  
MICHAEL EDWARDES,  
BL Limited,  
35-38 Portman Square, W1,  
January 1.

## Soviet intervention in Afghanistan

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative) and others

Sir, The cynical brutality of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan must be condemned by all who respect the concept of national sovereignty. It is a flagrant violation of all the norms of international behaviour and of the principle of non-intervention on which the non-aligned states, at their meeting in Havana in September, laid such emphasis.

It is essential for the security of all of us that the Soviet action should be condemned by the widest possible section of the world community. International reaction to this occupation of an independent country by the Soviet Union will determine the power balance for the new decade.

Many options are open to the non-Communist world. In particular we urge the immediate convening of a special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations to condemn the blatant Soviet violation of the United Nations Charter. We also call on the non-aligned movement to meet in emergency session to consider measures to be taken in the light of the conclusions of the Havana conference.

We believe that all governments should re-examine the whole range of their relationships with the Soviet Union in the diplomatic, political and commercial fields.

Additionally, we hope that the International Olympic Committee will forthwith suspend the Moscow Olympics until all Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Yours faithfully,  
RAY WHITNEY,  
JAMES WELLSLOVED,  
JOHN CARTWRIGHT,  
RONALD BROWN,  
PATRICK CORMACK,  
ROBERT MOSS,  
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,  
JOSEPH GODSON,  
PETER STEPHENSON,  
LEOPOLD LABEED,  
House of Commons, SW1,  
January 1.

### Bridge over the Kwae

From Mr D. E. A. Budden

Sir, I was recently in Bangkok and I took the opportunity to visit the River Kwae. The tour took a whole day and my inner feelings during the journey there were a mixture of normal curiosity and the subdued anticipation associated with a pilgrimage. I was well aware during the journey with several English, Dutch and Australians that they were of the same mind.

It was, therefore, a poignant moment of total frustration and disappointment to all of us to discover on arrival that whilst one could conjure up a mental awareness at the river there was a complete lack of evidence of any kind associated with the historic construction that took place across the River. There was no stone, no memorial, nothing other than an unimpressive notice stating that the Japanese had built a bridge in the area during the last war.

The war cemeteries some kilometres away at Chungkai and Kanchanaburi, maintained by the War Graves Commission, were sensitively laid out and obviously carefully maintained, but surely someone, somewhere, should commemorate at the River the blood, sweat and tears, to use a cliché, that went into the construction of the historic bridge.

Living in the past may not be a particularly constructive attitude of mind but in these days of continual self-denigration surely a little pride is not misplaced.

Yours faithfully,  
D. E. A. BUDDEN,  
25 Batchesworth Lane,  
Northwood,  
Middlesex,  
December 14.

### Round sum

From Lady Buchanan

Sir, We have been encouraged this Christmas to be generous to our newspaper girls and boys (December 13). Their integrity and standard of service is well illustrated by one of my treasured possessions—a copy of your newspaper of about 20 years ago which carries the following message written in pencil in a neat hand:

"Madam—  
Last week, for reasons best known to yourself you paid 4s 10½d instead of 3s 2d, leaving you 1s 8½d credit. This week, however, your papers are 4s but you leave 3s 2d which means you owe 10d on this week. Therefore you now have 10½d credit, which you will find inside your papers."

C. P. ROGERS (Paperboy).  
Yours truly,  
ELSIE BUCHANAN,  
Tunnel House,  
Box,  
Minchinhampton,  
Gloucestershire,  
December 23.

### The year of the square

From Mr M. J. Webster

Sir, I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to all your readers who will be 44 years old in 1980 and, in particular, those of a mathematical turn of mind whose birthday was 1.936. It will be observed that each of the constituent parts of this date, 1, 9 and 36, is a perfect square while the quick-witted will also notice that the year of birth in full, 1936, is also a perfect square, in fact the square of 44.

If any calculations are correct the next two similar dates of birth will be 4,900 and 16,900, and who knows but that by the year 16,900 it will be commonplace to live to an age of 130!

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. WEBSTER,  
Magungie,  
Arbroath,  
Angus,  
December 28.

## THE STEELMEN STRIKE FROM WEAKNESS

The fortunes of the steel and coal industries in Britain have been inclined to move inversely in the recent past. Ten years ago, expectations of world-wide industrial growth caused many to predict a shortage of steel making capacity, while complacency over oil supplies made coal appear an industry in decline. Then oil crisis and recession led to the abandonment of expensive schemes to expand steel capacity, and coal in turn had the chance to pursue its Selbys and Belvoirs. But throughout these ups and downs, both industries have had much in common, as basic suppliers to the nation's industry, with an output relatively expensive by international standards, but heavily subsidized for the sake of high employment and national self-efficiency.

In both industries, the work force submitted patiently to closures and redundancies in the adverse phases and made the most of their chances at other times. But now the steel workers in adversity have come to their sticking-point. They find twenty per cent for the miners and a two per cent offer for them too wide a disparity to accept. Given the evident similarities between their two state-owned industries, most of them understand the hard truth: in the world as it is, steel produced as expensively as

most is in Britain cannot hope for an expanding market, while coal at almost any price will retain its importance at least until the energy gap is behind us. They are less ready to accept that this difference should be directly reflected in their pay rises.

The British Steel Corporation miscalculated the psychological effect of its two per cent offer (in fact, since the two per cent was consolidation of money already being paid, the basic offer was for nothing at all). The corporation sought to emphasize their own financial straits, and to concentrate their employees' hopes on the additional rewards available through productivity bargaining. They saw scope for pay levels to rise next year at a rate comparable to the 15 per cent that has been established in negotiators' minds as the "going rate".

BSC was anxious to move the main area of bargaining away from the national level, where agreements in anticipation of productivity gains have had disappointing results, to the local level where effective agreements can be implemented. But the prominence given to that two per cent outraged the steelworkers' sense of fairness so greatly that the productivity terms were rejected almost out of hand. The result is a dispute which may

well prove long and bitter, and is bound to cause a more rapid contraction of the industry than would otherwise have been necessary, as well as bringing widespread damage to enterprises like British Leyland which have more than enough problems already.

Yet the corporation's insistence that higher rewards can only come through greater efficiency is right and inevitable. Since the Government is fully committed to the observance of cash limits in the public sector, there would have been no point in granting Mr. Callaghan's request for an early recall of Parliament to debate the issue. The dispute itself must test the force of that commitment. It will also be the first crucial test before the public of all that is implied in a policy of letting wage settlements find their own level according to economic forces. In the case of subsidized state industries the application of these forces always has a degree of artificiality. The dispute shows how deeply ingrained, even in a sick industry, is the sense that policy in the public sector should have some regard for the notion of a "going rate". It is essential for the success of the Government's industrial and economic policies that the hard lesson is learned that the "going rate" is something that cannot be achieved if it is not paid for by advances in efficiency.



## SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Gloucester, president of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, will visit boys' clubs in Buckinghamshire on January 16.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Corps of Transport, will receive Major-General P. Hunt, who relinquishes his appointment as Colonel Commandant, and Major-General P. H. Benson on his assuming appointment on January 16.

The Duke of Kent, as patron, will visit the National Army Museum at Royal Hospital Road, London, on February 7.

The Duchess of Kent will visit HMS Kent in the Pool of London on February 20.

Princess Alexandra, patron of the Bethlehem Royal Hospital and the Maudsley Hospital, will visit the new staff hostel and other departments at the Bethlehem Royal Hospital, Beckenham, on January 17.

## Birthdays today

The Duke of Devonshire, 60; Professor Sir Kingsley Dunham, 70; Sir Anthony Lincoln, 69; Major Sir Philip Margeson, 66; Lord Nelson of Stafford, 65; Mr Edmund de Kerchove, 64; Vice-Admiral Sir Guy Sayer, 77; Sir Michael Tippett, 75; Lord Trend, 66.

## Today's engagements

The Duke of Gloucester opens forty-fifth model engineering exhibition, Conference Centre, Wembley.

Exhibition: Sea, sky and sun, Tate Gallery, Millbank, 10-6.

Lecture: The high Renaissance, National Gallery, Usher Orchestras, County Hall, Ballymena, co. Antrim, N. Ireland, 8.

Concert: Organ recital, Robert Crowley, St. Bride's Church, 1.15.

Films: *The Pool of London*, and *There go the boats*, Museum of London, 1.30 and 2.30.

Events for children: The movement and dress show: Ronnie La Drew and the Wizard from the Puppets, Museum of Childhood, 2.30; Documentary and feature films on transport, Museum of London, London Wall, National Exhibition of Children's Art, Guildhall Gallery, King Street, 10-5 (last day); *Chindrella*, Battersea Town Hall, Lavender Hill, 2.30 and 7.30; Rembrandt visits Kenwood, a programme for children of music, a visit to National Gallery Rembrandt self-portraits and a short play; also dressing up, work sheets and talks, Kenwood House, Hampstead Lane; *Wildwood*, a play for class for young people (aged 11 to 16) presented by Gareth Morris, Royal Academy of Music.

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## Forthcoming marriages

Mr M. A. Mackay-James and Miss M. N. W. Leeds. The engagement is announced between Maxine, younger son of Lieutenant-Commander and Mrs P. M. A. Mackay-James, of La Rochelle, Lake Alfred, Florida, United States, and Miranda, eldest daughter of Sir George Leeds, of Roche Bots, St Aubin, Jersey, Channel Islands, and the late Mrs Nicola Leeds.

Mr P. J. E. Barrow and Miss J. L. Cawley. The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Dr and Mrs B. A. 1. Barrow, of 36, Ryecroft Road, London, SW16, and Janet, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Cawley, of Gawsforth, Cheshire.

Dr P. D. Dewhurst and Dr L. A. A. Hadley. The engagement is announced between Peter Duncan, elder son of Mr and Mrs A. Dewhurst, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Lindsey Amy-Archie, only daughter of Mrs L. E. Hadley, of Hurst Green, Oxford, Surrey and the late Dr A. L. Hadley.

Mr N. H. A. Hoggate and Mrs P. M. N. Nash. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Major and Mrs H. Hoggate, of Burghage, Wiltshire, and Pamela, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neville Nash, of Pile, Lymington.

Mr P. L. G. Jenkins and Miss H. Cooper. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs P. L. G. Jenkins, of Harriet, daughter of Dr and Mrs A. Cooper, of Bristol.

Mr J. H. S. Stobbs and Miss F. J. Richards. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J. H. S. Stobbs, of 11, Wyche Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, and Frances, daughter of the Rev John and Mrs Richards, of Kewley Rectory, Little Wymondley, Bull.

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## Captain J. H. Gibbon, RHA

and Miss R. J. Copland. The engagement is announced between John Houghton, son of General Sir John and Lady Gibbon, of Mott House, Brown Candover, Alresford, Hampshire, and Raine Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Copland, of Corner Garth, Breray Lane, Bramhope, Yorkshire.

Lieutenant I. M. Bartholomew, RN and Miss A. C. Dean. The engagement is announced between Ian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. E. G. Bartholomew, of Calgary, Isle of Mull, and Anna, only daughter of Commander and Mrs R. A. Dean, of Mamodon, Plymouth.

Mr J. D. H. Chadwick and Miss S. E. Maynard. The engagement is announced between John, only son of Mr and Mrs D. H. Chadwick, of Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. W. Maynard, of Painswick, Gloucestershire.

Mr M. S. Honess and Miss P. A. Deighton-Gibson. The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mr and Mrs T. F. Honess, of Wellington, Shropshire, and Penelope Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Deighton-Gibson, of Style, Jacobstown, Okehampton, Devon.

Mr N. N. Nisbet and Miss N. S. Tye. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, youngest son of Captain N. Nisbet and the late Mrs N. Nisbet, of Ballyniet, Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Nicola Sally, only daughter of Major and Mrs J. E. Tye, of Holly Trees, Sunningdale, Berkshire.

Mr S. M. V. Walters and Miss J. E. Stuck. The engagement is announced between Stephen, youngest son of Captain S. M. Walters, RN, of The Old Priory, Sutton, Suffolk, and Judith, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Stuck, of 34 Grange Road, Edinburgh.

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## Mr A. Allman-Brown

and Mrs R. V. Rajalingham. The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of the late Raymond Brown and Mrs Jean Brown, of Alsager, Staffs, England, and Regine Vijayarajalingham, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs N. Rajalingham, of Singapore.

Mr J. P. Barber, RN and Miss L. A. Thurston. The engagement is announced between Philip James, youngest son of the late Captain W. P. Barber, DSC, Royal Navy, and of Mrs Barber, of Westbourne, Ensworth, Hampshire, and Linda Ann, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs H. G. Thurston, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr J. G. Ellis and Miss B. E. Smith. The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs J. G. Ellis, of Summerseat Lane, Holcombe Brook, Lancashire, and Beverly, daughter of Mrs W. M. Smith, of Nanrwich Road, Crewe, Cheshire, and of the late Mr J. Smith.

Mr D. Gibb and Miss K. Harper. The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs C. O. Gibb, of Orchard Way, Kew Green, Beaconsfield, and Kathy, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Harper, of London, Ontario, Canada.

Mr A. R. B. Mounby and Miss R. M. Nicholas. The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of Mr and Mrs R. Mounby, of Birmingham, and Katherine, elder daughter of the late Mr R. M. Nicholas, also of Birmingham.

Mr P. H. White and Miss A. I. F. Medley. The engagement is announced between Peter, youngest son of the late Mr P. H. White, and of Mrs Pearl White, of Millhaven, Martin Mill, Dover, and Alexandra, daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Medley, of Hoddinots House, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr J. I. A. Young and Miss L. M. Robertson. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Young, of Beaconsfield, and Judith, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. I. A. Young, of Edinburgh, and of Mrs Ian Robertson, of Strachur, Argyll.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## £1m sale completed by FMC

FMC, Britain's largest meat wholesaling group which is 74 per cent owned by an offshoot of the National Farmers' Union, has completed its sale of Thomas Borthwick and Sons to Midland Carle Products. The sale worth £1.1m includes land, plant and buildings as well as stocks whose value does not exceed £150,000.

The proceeds will be used initially to further reduce FMC's borrowings, and in a full year at current interest rates would represent a £300,000 contribution to pretax profits, said the board.

This compares with the £25,000 pretax contribution made by Borthwick in the year to March 28, 1979.

## Bowring bid battle may go to court

The £100m-plus transatlantic takeover battle between C. T. Bowring, one of Britain's biggest insurance brokers, and the American Marsh and McLennan combine, the world's largest insurance broker, has ended in a stalemate.

On Monday night Bowring announced it was starting actions against Marsh and McLennan in the High Court in London to "neutralise the use or publication" of alleged confidential information concerning Bowring supplied to the American Group.

Both groups held abortive talks earlier this year on a possible pooling of their insurance interests. Bowring claimed the information was supplied in connection with these negotiations and subsequent talks only on the basis that there was to be no full-scale bid.

## Money Market Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 12%	
Bank Rate	12%
Overnight	12%
3 months	12%
6 months	12%
12 months	12%
18 months	12%
24 months	12%
30 months	12%
36 months	12%
42 months	12%
48 months	12%
54 months	12%
60 months	12%
66 months	12%
72 months	12%
78 months	12%
84 months	12%
90 months	12%
96 months	12%
102 months	12%
108 months	12%
114 months	12%
120 months	12%
126 months	12%
132 months	12%
138 months	12%
144 months	12%
150 months	12%
156 months	12%
162 months	12%
168 months	12%
174 months	12%
180 months	12%
186 months	12%
192 months	12%
198 months	12%
204 months	12%
210 months	12%
216 months	12%
222 months	12%
228 months	12%
234 months	12%
240 months	12%
246 months	12%
252 months	12%
258 months	12%
264 months	12%
270 months	12%
276 months	12%
282 months	12%
288 months	12%
294 months	12%
300 months	12%
306 months	12%
312 months	12%
318 months	12%
324 months	12%
330 months	12%
336 months	12%
342 months	12%
348 months	12%
354 months	12%
360 months	12%
366 months	12%
372 months	12%
378 months	12%
384 months	12%
390 months	12%
396 months	12%
402 months	12%
408 months	12%
414 months	12%
420 months	12%
426 months	12%
432 months	12%
438 months	12%
444 months	12%
450 months	12%
456 months	12%
462 months	12%
468 months	12%
474 months	12%
480 months	12%
486 months	12%
492 months	12%
498 months	12%
504 months	12%
510 months	12%
516 months	12%
522 months	12%
528 months	12%
534 months	12%
540 months	12%
546 months	12%
552 months	12%
558 months	12%
564 months	12%
570 months	12%
576 months	12%
582 months	12%
588 months	12%
594 months	12%
600 months	12%
606 months	12%
612 months	12%
618 months	12%
624 months	12%
630 months	12%
636 months	12%
642 months	12%
648 months	12%
654 months	12%
660 months	12%
666 months	12%
672 months	12%
678 months	12%
684 months	12%
690 months	12%
696 months	12%
702 months	12%
708 months	12%
714 months	12%
720 months	12%
726 months	12%
732 months	12%
738 months	12%
744 months	12%
750 months	12%
756 months	12%
762 months	12%
768 months	12%
774 months	12%
780 months	12%
786 months	12%
792 months	12%
798 months	12%
804 months	12%
810 months	12%
816 months	12%
822 months	12%
828 months	12%
834 months	12%
840 months	12%
846 months	12%
852 months	12%
858 months	12%
864 months	12%
870 months	12%
876 months	12%
882 months	12%
888 months	12%
894 months	12%
900 months	12%
906 months	12%
912 months	12%
918 months	12%
924 months	12%
930 months	12%
936 months	12%
942 months	12%
948 months	12%
954 months	12%
960 months	12%
966 months	12%
972 months	12%
978 months	12%
984 months	12%
990 months	12%
996 months	12%
1002 months	12%
1008 months	12%
1014 months	12%
1020 months	12%
1026 months	12%
1032 months	12%
1038 months	12%
1044 months	12%
1050 months	12%
1056 months	12%
1062 months	12%
1068 months	12%
1074 months	12%
1080 months	12%
1086 months	12%
1092 months	12%
1098 months	12%
1104 months	12%
1110 months	12%
1116 months	12%
1122 months	12%
1128 months	12%
1134 months	12%
1140 months	12%
1146 months	12%
1152 months	12%
1158 months	12%
1164 months	12%
1170 months	12%
1176 months	12%
1182 months	12%
1188 months	12%
1194 months	12%
1200 months	12%

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	17%
Barclays Bank	17%
BCCI Bank	17%
Consolidated Crdts	17%
C. Hoare & Co	17%
Lloyds Bank	17%
London Mercantile	17%
Midland Bank	17%
Nat Westminster	17%
RBS	17%
TSB	17%
Williams and Glyn's	17%

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and over 10%, up to £25,000 10%, over £25,000 10%.

## THE NEW THROGMORTON TRUST LTD.

Capital Loan Stock Valuation—December 31st, 1979

The Net Asset Value per £1 of Capital Loan Stock is 153.76p therefore the tender price is 138.38p calculated on Formula 2.

Securities valued at middle market prices.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

27-28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone: 01-638 8851

The Over-the-Counter Market

1979 79 High Low Company Price Ch's Divid P-E

99	39	Airsprung Group	75	—	6.7	8.9	+4.4
50	35	Armstrong & Rhodes	219	—	13.8	6.3	+6.4
223	143	Bardon Hill	92	—	5.0	5.4	10.1
101	50	Deborah Ord	353	—	17.5	5.0	—
333	170	Deborah 171	80	—	12.8	8.8	5.6
90	88	Frank Horsell	110	—	15.5	15.0	—
147	100	Frederick Parker	59	—	5.2	8.8	+3.5
128	110	George Blair	116	—	7.2	6.2	10.2
61	45	Jackson Group	244	—	31.2	12.8	+4.8
133	97	James Burroughs	223	—	14.3	6.4	+3.2
342	242	Robert Jenkins	17	—	12.0	15.8	—
222	150	Torday Limited	56	—	2.6	4.6	11.9
34	14	Twinlock Ord	83	—	11.5	6.3	7.1
82	69	Twinlock 12	185	—	—	—	—
56	23	Unilock Holdings	—	—	—	—	—
190	136	Walter Alexander	—	—	—	—	—
189	185	W. S. Yeates New	—	—	—	—	—

\*Accounts prepared under provision of SSAP15.

## Stock markets

## Year ends on worried note

Today's impending steel strike and worries over Russian involvement in Afghanistan cast a shadow over the market on New Year's Eve which effectively wiped out last Friday's bright start to the new account.

Dealers complained that they had not been helped either by the extended holiday, which continued to keep investors away leaving the majority of equities in a sadly neglected appearance.

However, one result of Russia's build up of troops in Afghanistan was a 514 surge in the value price to close at £256 an ounce. This meant a further rise in gold shares which had earlier suffered as a result of profit taking.

The threatened steel strike also resulted in investors waiting until later in the week before taking advantage of the weekend press's annual new year share tips. Even the jobber's customary mark up of those shares mentioned was kept to a minimum.

The general nervousness spilled over into gilt-edged where observers believe a fall in the industrial sector makes a sudden turn for the better. Long after opening slightly easier encountered a bit of selling early on, then drifted back to the level of the day to finish £1 to £1 off. Things were not much different at the shorter end of the market where falls of between £1 to £1 were noted.

Trading after hours proved to be a brief affair as most dealers made an early start for home. The general trend did seem to be a little firmer with the FT index, after being 4.3 down at 3 pm, closing 3.6 off at 414.2.

Weekend comment failed to have any effect on shares of ICI among leading industrials where these fell 7p to 354p. Among those with falls of 2p were Becton at 117p, Fisons at 119p, Unilever at 120p and BAT's at 238p. Glaxo was a penny easier at 435p and only Hawker Siddeley, unchanged at 414.2.

Both groups held abortive talks earlier this year on a possible pooling of their insurance interests. Bowring claimed the information was supplied in connection with these negotiations and subsequent talks only on the basis that there was to be no full-scale bid.

## Wall Street

New York, Dec 31.—Metals issues sparked as Gold prices pushed to over \$530 an ounce and silver prices soared, but the market as a whole hardly moved as it neared the end of the decade.

Analysts said many investors were largely ignoring news events and looking for bargains and others were selling for tax purposes.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off marginally and declined led advances about four to three on a volume of about 28 million shares.

The market had its ups, twice topping 1,000 in the past decade and its downs, dropping to 578 in December 1974.

## Gold price soars

New York, Dec 31.—Gold rose \$13 to close at \$529 to \$531 an ounce, the highest since 1973, as investors sought a safe haven for their money with many operators attributing the rise to a lack of selling rather than to any concerted buying.

COMEX SILVER: January spot silver futures rose 10¢ to \$10.40, the highest since 1973, as investors sought a safe haven for their money with many operators attributing the rise to a lack of selling rather than to any concerted buying.

COMEX GOLD: January spot gold futures rose 13¢ to \$529, the highest since 1973, as investors sought a safe haven for their money with many operators attributing the rise to a lack of selling rather than to any concerted buying.

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## Options

Dealers maintained their lonely vigil among traded options on New Year's Eve as investors continued to remain abstinent due to the extended Christmas holiday. Total contracts amounted to 190 compared with Friday's figure of 232.

Business among traditional options was also quiet with "calls" being produced in Premier Oil, First National Finance, Denheeb Combex, Airfix, CHM, Howard Machine, P. O. Charterhall, Carless Capel, North Kalguri, Central Pacific Mine and M & G Group. Puts were arranged in GKN, Metal Box, J. Brown and Rhodens Corporation, while "doubles" were made in First National Finance, Burnah and Lomho.

Engineering was also quiet with "calls" being produced in Premier Oil, First National Finance, Denheeb Combex, Airfix, CHM, Howard Machine, P. O. Charterhall, Carless Capel, North Kalguri, Central Pacific Mine and M & G Group. Puts were arranged in GKN, Metal Box, J. Brown and Rhodens Corporation, while "doubles" were made in First National Finance, Burnah and Lomho.

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

الحمد لله



tre, which is the most up-to-date  
in Europe.



Gardens and grounds run to about 2.8 acres and surrounding land has been zoned as a conservation area. The sale was through Knight Frank and







